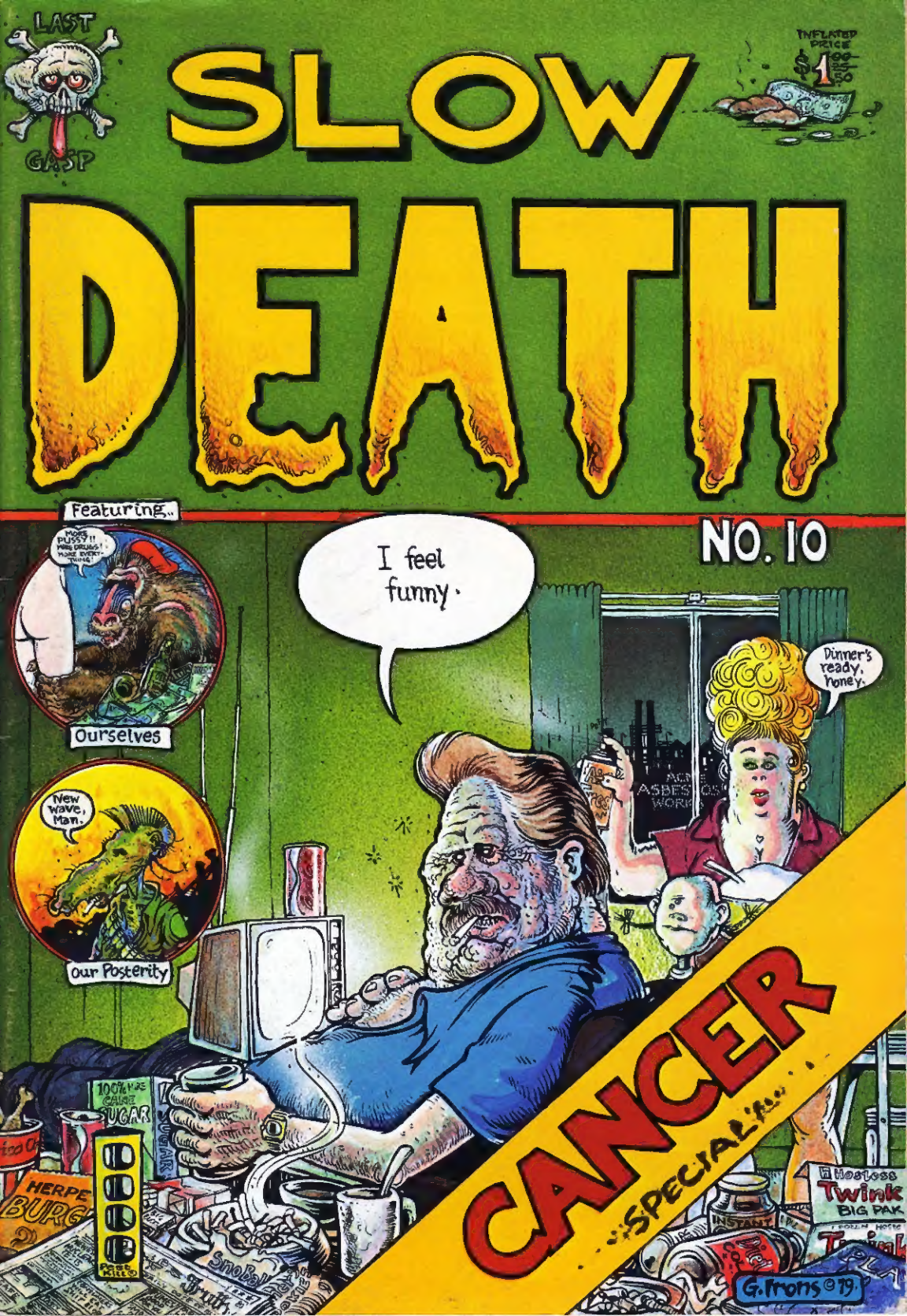
LAST GASP
SLOW DEATH
INFLATED PRICE $1.00
Featuring..
NO. 10
MORE PUSSY!! MORE DRUGS! MORE EVERYTHING!
Ourselves
New wave, Man.
Our Posterity
I feel funny.
Dinner's ready, honey.
CANCER SPECIAL!
100% PURE CANE SUGAR
HERPES BURG
Hostess Twinkies BIG PAK
G. Irons ©79.

SLOW DEATH #10
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SPECIAL CANCER AND MEDICINE ISSUE
Published by Last Gasp of San Francisco

Dedicated to Robin Barrett, a wonderful spirit, who inspired this issue and died during its production—not of the cancer she had, but of the cure: excessive radiation and chemotherapy, we will miss her.

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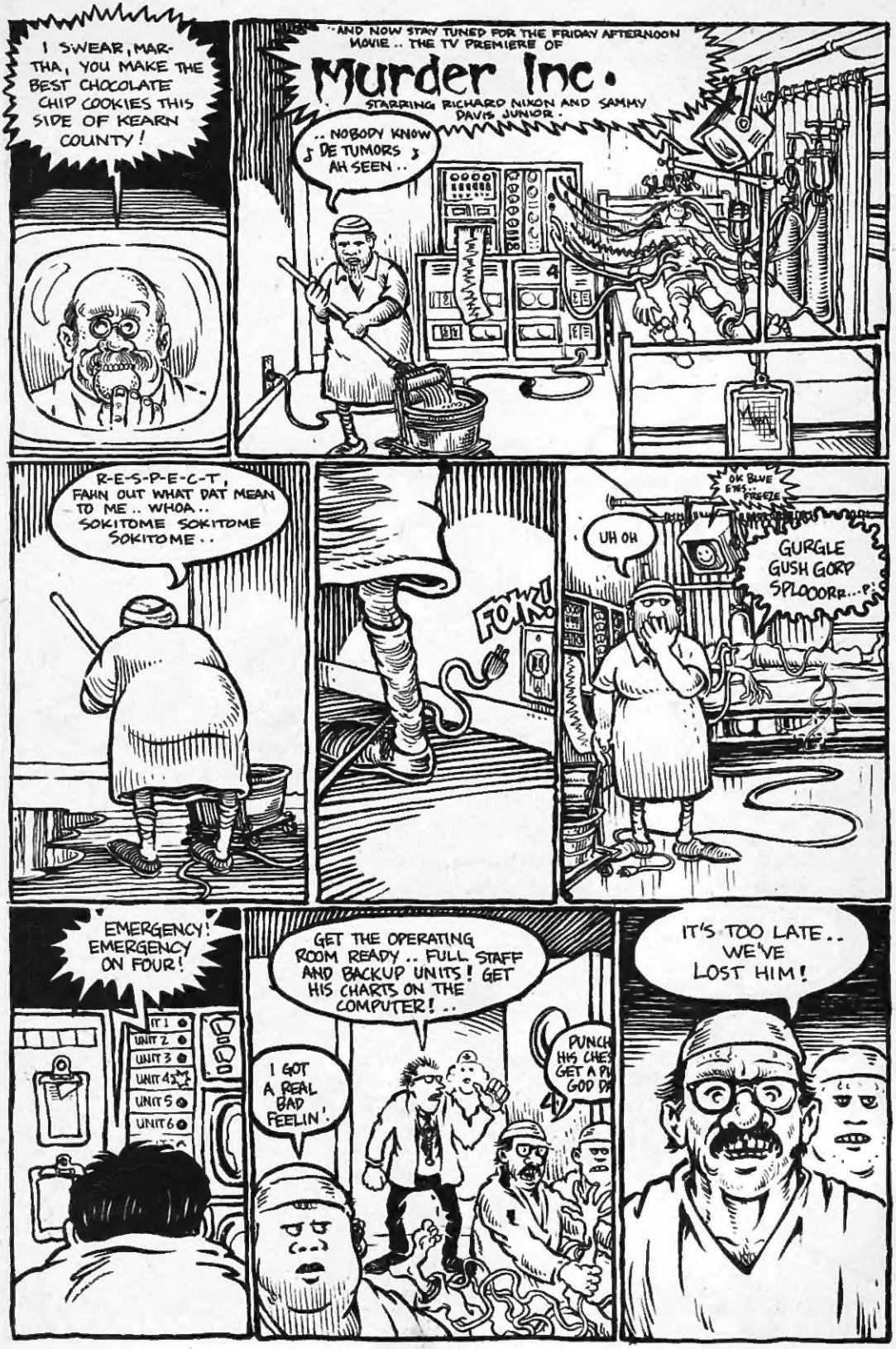
EVENIN' MARTHA. NOT A FIT NIGHT FOR MAN NOR BEAST.
OH, DOC BENWAY! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE! IT'S LITTLE BILL! HE'S BURNING UP.
YOU SURE GAVE YOUR MAMA A SCARE YOUNG FELLER. THE NEXT TIME YOU GO SKATING YOU KEEP YOUR FEET DRY, HEAR?
YESSIR
JUST KEEP HIM WARM AND FULL OF LEMON AND HONEY. YOU CALL ME TOMORROW IF HIS FEVER DOESN'T BREAK.
GRACIOUS SAKES DOC BENWAY, HOW CAN I THANK YOU FOR COMING?
WHY SHUCKS, MARTHA, IT WAS ONLY A MILE OR TWO OUT OF MY WAY. I'LL BE OFF HOME.. UNLESS OF COURSE YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE BAKED SOME OF YOUR CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES TODAY!


I SWEAR, MARTHA, YOU MAKE THE BEST CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES THIS SIDE OF KEARN COUNTY!
..AND NOW STAY TUNED FOR THE FRIDAY AFTERNOON MOVIE.. THE TV PREMIERE OF
Murder Inc.
STARRING RICHARD NIXON AND SAMMY DAVIS JUNIOR.
..NOBODY KNOW ♪ DE TUMORS ♪ AH SEEN..
R-E-S-P-E-C-T, FAHN OUT WHAT DAT MEAN TO ME.. WHOA.. SOKITOME SOKITOME SOKITOME..
FOINK
OK BLUE EYES.. FREEZE
UH OH
GURGLE GUSH GORP SPLOORR...
EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY ON FOUR!
UNIT 1
UNIT 2
UNIT 3
UNIT 4
UNIT 5
UNIT 6
GET THE OPERATING ROOM READY.. FULL STAFF AND BACKUP UNITS! GET HIS CHARTS ON THE COMPUTER!..
I GOT A REAL BAD FEELIN'.
IT'S TOO LATE.. WE'VE LOST HIM!

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE!? YOU FOOL!
:SOB:
OH LORD! I DONE KILLED A MAN!
KILLED HIM? IT'S WORSE THAN THAT! YOU'VE COST THIS HOSPITAL THE FOURTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS A DAY HIS INSURANCE WAS PAYING TO KEEP HIM ALIVE!
THEN THERE WAS HIS SAVINGS! HIS HOUSE! LOST! KILLED HIM?! YOU..YOU HAVE TERMINATED MR. ISSAC'S VIABILITY AS A PATIENT!
GOT ANY SPEED?
GOT QUAALUDES.
HEY MAN.. WHAT'S HAPPENIN? ...ME? SHIT. JUS' DIGGIN' THE ACTION, Y'KNOW? CAN'T BEAT TH' EMERGENCY ROOM FOR MUSICAL COMEDY. BESIDES, I'M WAITIN' FOR MY CONNECTION, Y'DIG?
NOTHIN' LIKE WATCHIN' THE BIG MACHINE IN ACTION.. THIS PLACE GRINDS OUT TH' STIFFS, LEMME TELL YA. BLEEDS 'EM DRY AN' TOSSES OUT ON TH' HEAP. WELL, IT'S LIKE DEATH AN' TAXES. GOOD FOR TH' ECONOMY. EVERYBODY HAPPY EXCEPT TH' PATIENTS— AN' THEY'RE NOT IN MUCH OF A POSITION TO COMPLAIN. WANNA GO FOR A PIECE OF TH' ACTION? ATTABOY! MY SON TH' DOCTAH! HERE'S HOW IT WORKS..
AMA

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE MEDICAL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES IS NOT A SERVICE, BUT AN INDUSTRY. IT OPERATES LIKE ANY OTHER INDUSTRY IN THAT IT'S PRIMARY AIM IS TO MAKE PROFITS FOR THE CORPORATIONS THAT CONTROL IT. IT IS DIRECTED AT EXPLOITING EXISTING MARKETS AND CREATING NEW ONES. EMPHASIS IN DETERMINING NEW MARKETS IS NOT BASED ON THE NEEDS OF THE GENERAL POPULATION, BUT RATHER ON HOW LUCRATIVE A POTENTIAL MARKET WILL BE.

MEDICINE IN AMERICA IS CONTROLLED PRIMARILY BY LARGE CORPORATIONS WITH DIVERSIFIED INTERESTS. THE SAME COMPANIES THAT MAKE THE DRUGS PRODUCE CANDY, COFFEE, PASTRIES, FAST FOODS AND CIGARETTES, SUPPORTING THE VERY LIFESTYLE THAT MAKES PEOPLE SICK. THEY ALSO DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTROL THE MEDIA, ADVERTISING, AND RESEARCH THAT DETERMINES THE PUBLIC'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS HEALTH, DOCTORS, AND DRUGS. IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAT A PRODUCT IS PALATABLE THAN EFFECTIVE.

- 25 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT ON DRUGS GOES FOR MARKETING.. PROMOTION, PACKAGING, ETC. .. MOST OF IT AIMED AT THE FAMILY DOCTOR WHO WILL PUSH THE STUFF OFF ON HIS PATIENTS.
- OF THE 10 CENTS OR SO THAT GOES INTO RESEARCH, 8 WILL BE SPENT ON DEVELOPING "NEW" PRODUCT – NEW VERSIONS OF EXISTING DRUGS, DRUGS WITH QUESTIONABLE EFFECT, "ADDITIVES", ETC.
- MOVING PRODUCT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN QUALITY OR SAFETY. THE IDEA IS TO SELL FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER. THUS WE'VE HAD D.E.S., THALIDOMIDE, CANCER CAUSING CHEMOTHERAPY, ETC.
- THE "PILL" IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE "BONANZA MARKET" DRUG COMPANIES DREAM OF. GIGANTIC SALES FOR 10 YEARS OR SO, UNTIL THE CANCER STATISTICS COME IN, THEN A BIG PUSH TO THE FOREIGN (3rd WORLD) MARKET.
- THE DRUG COMPANIES ARE LITERALLY PUSHERS. BETTER TO SELL JUNKIES METHADONE THROUGH GOV'T. PROGRAMS THAN TO HAVE THAT MONEY OUT ON THE STREET.

HOSPITALS, MEDICAL SUPPLIERS, GERIATRIC HOMES, ALL ASPECTS OF MEDICAL CARE A PART OF A VAST MARKETING COMPLEX. THE EMPHASIS IS ON HIGH COST PRIVATE FACILITIES, BUT THE POOR'S POTENTIAL AS A PROFIT SOURCE IS NOT IGNORED.

- CONTROLLED QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES STRATIFIES THE MARKET. IF COUNTY HOSPITALS ARE CROWDED AND FACILITIES INADEQUATE, PEOPLE WILL TURN TO PRIVATE FACILITIES. OF COURSE THE COST OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND TREATMENT IS PROHIBITIVELY HIGH, AND PEOPLE MUST DEPEND ON THE INSURANCE COMPANIES, OFTEN CORPORATE OCTOPUSES THAT INVEST IN, OR OWN THE COMPANIES THAT WILL SUPPLY THE SICK'S NEEDS, NOT TO MENTION OTHER COUNTER-HEALTH INVESTMENTS.
- THE POOR, AIDED BY MEDICARE, MEDICAID, ETC., FORM A VAST MARKET FOR SECOND-CLASS SERVICES. HAND IN GLOVE WITH THE GOV'T. AGENCIES WHO CREATE MEDICAL CARE FOR THOSE WHO COULD OTHERWISE NOT AFFORD IT, THE CORPORATIONS ARE GUARANTEED NOT ONLY A GIGANTIC POOL OF CONSUMERS, BUT ALSO A HANDY TESTING GROUND FOR QUESTIONABLE OR UNTRIED PRODUCTS.
- THE ULTIMATE IN GUARANTEED MARKETS IS THE OLD AGE/DEATH MARKET. A PROLONGED, COSTLY DEMISE IS THE MARK OF THE AMERICAN WAY OF EXPIRATION. BY KEEPING A PATIENT ALIVE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, MAXIMUM PROFIT CAN BE REALIZED. DYING GERIATRICS ARE RELATIVELY TROUBLE FREE, LOW MAINTENANCE ... THE IDEAL CUSTOMER, A CAPTIVE CLASS OF CONSUMER.

MORE FUN FACTS ... THE DOCTORS & THE AMA.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION EXISTS AS THE MAIN BODY FOR PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF THE DOCTORS IN THIS COUNTRY, A WHITE MALE DOMINATED ELITE GROUP WHOSE TRAINING IS AIMED AT MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO WHILE REALIZING MAXIMUM PROFITS. THE AMA'S MEANS OF CONTROL BEGINS AT THE SOURCE.. THE BOARDS FOR ACCREDATION & STANDARDS OF NEW DOCTORS, THE STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRANCE INTO MEDICAL SCHOOLS, THE NUMBERS OF NEW SCHOOLS, TUITION, ETC. ARE AMA CONTROLLED..

- ONLY 5% OF ALL MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES BECOME GENERAL PRACTITIONERS. EMPHASIS IS ON PRODUCING SPECIALISTS, USUALLY IN A FIELD WHICH RELIES HEAVILY ON HIGH LEVEL TECHNOLOGY. EVEN WITH THE BEST HUMANITARIAN MOTIVES, MOST SURVIVORS OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS END UP OPTING FOR HIGH PROFIT/LOW WORKLOAD FIELDS. AFTER A FEW YEARS OF HIGH PRESSURE INTERNSHIP AND TWENTY HOUR DAYS, PATIENTS BECOME A DEHUMANIZED COMMODITY AND A PRIVATE, HIGH PAYING PRACTICE BEGINS TO LOOK PRETTY GOOD. CHARITY WARDS AND COUNTY HOSPITALS ARE A GREAT TRAINING GROUND, BUT IT AIN'T GONNA GET YOU A MERCEDES BENZ. BRAIN SURGURY MIGHT.
- THE AMA ALSO CONTROLS THE NUMBERS OF PHYSICIANS THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS WILL PRODUCE, INSURING LACK OF COMPETITION AND SURE JOBS FOR AMA MEMBERS. MOST OF THESE AMA MEMBERS WILL BE WHITE, UPPER MIDDLE CLASS MALES (..SEE THE RECENT BAKKE DECISION IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT.)

THE AMA DEFINES AND CONTROLS THE PROFESSIONAL ROLE OF THE DOCTOR.

- THE ROLE OF THE DOCTOR IS ILLNESS/SYMPTOM REMOVAL AS OPPOSED TO HEALTH ENHANCEMENT. PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE, HOLISTIC APPROACHES, ETC. ARE SIMPLY NOT AS PROFITABLE AS THE TREATMENT OF SYMPTOMS. THE DOCTOR ACTUALLY HAS A CERTAIN INVESTMENT IN THE ILLNESS OF HIS PATIENTS: ILLNESS AS COMMODITY.
- THE ROLE OF THE DOCTOR AS OMNIPOTENT HOLDER OF SECRET KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS. THIS ROLE IS PROTECTED BY LIMITING THE PRACTICE OF NON-MD'S. PARAMEDICS, MIDWIVES, HEALERS, AND EVEN NURSES ARE LEGALLY RESTRICTED FROM PERFORMING EVEN THE MOST ROUTINE PROCEDURES WHICH ARE THE EXCLUSIVE REALM OF THE MD.
- TECHNIQUES ALIEN TO WESTERN MEDICINE (WESTERN THOUGHT) ARE SUPPRESSED OR CONTROLLED. ACUPUNCTURE, CHIROPRACTIC, NATURAL HEALING, ETC. ARE DEPICTED BY AMA/CORPORATE MEDIA AS QUACKERY OR FANATICISM. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT IN THE CASE OF ACUPUNCTURE, AN EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUE THAT HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD AND USED IN ASIA FOR AS LONG AS WESTERN CIVILIZATION HAS BEEN AROUND, AN M.D. WITH NO TRAINING AT ALL IN ACUPUNCTURE THEORY OR TECHNIQUE IS FREE TO PRACTICE NEEDLING, WHEREAS A TRAINED ACUPUNCTURIST CANNOT LEGALLY PRACTICE "MEDICINE".

THE AMA HAS SYSTEMATICALLY FOUGHT PROGRESSIVE LEGISLATION, HAS PERPETUATED A DUAL SYSTEM OF CARE – ONE FOR THE RICH AND ONE FOR THE POOR, HAS MADE INACCESSABLE FREE, EQUAL, COMPREHENSIVE CONSUMER CONTROLLED HEALTH CARE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR OWN "RIGHT TO PROFIT" FROM THE HEALTH INDUSTRY.

* IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT MANY DOCTORS ARE NOT INEPT GREEDHEADS. THE POINT IS THAT THE SYSTEM THAT PRODUCES AND IN MANY WAYS CONTROLS MD'S IS A HIDEOUS MONSTER, INCAPABLE OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE POPULACE. SOME MD'S I KNOW SEEM TO BE GENUINELY MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO ALLEVIATE HUMAN SUFFERING. THEY ALL APPEAR TO BE GREAT TECHNICIANS. EVEN MY DENTIST, A HELLUVA NICE GUY, SEEMS TO BE GENUINELY DEDICATED TO TEETH. ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE IT'S HIS FETISH.

WELL, I GOTTA SPLIT. BUSINESS IS BUSINESS. LISTEN.. CAN I GIVE YOU A RIDE SOMEWHERE? I GOT MY WHEELS RIGHT HERE... OLD, BUT RELIABLE. HEY, YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.. FEELING SICK? MAYBE YOU'D BETTER STRETCH OUT IN THE **BACK!**

GENERAL HOSPITAL
DELIVERIES

MORTE

SOURCES: Health PAC; "The US Health Care Delivery System"/Richard Kunne; "The Medical Industrial Complex"/Barbara & John Ehrenreich; "American Murder Association"/Richard Kunne; Assistance from Dr. Larry Brilliant.

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PSST.. OVER HERE! HEY! DON'T JUMP. DON'T GET UPSET. DON'T MOVE! IT'S JUST YOUR LOCAL FUZZY FACED PSYCHOTIC SURVIVOR OF THE BIG SHIT STORM.. A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY MUTANT MINSTREL BARD JES' PICKIN' AND SINGIN' MY WAY THRU THE RUBBLE.. I'M JUST HERE TO ENTERTAIN YOU WHILE MY LITTLE AMIGOS GO THRU YOUR POCKETS. SO RELAX, SIT BACK, AND I'LL SING YOU A BLUES ABOUT THE LAST DAYS OF THE OLD ORDER.. THEN AFTERWARDS ME AND MY BUDDIES'LL DECIDE WHETHER WE SHOULD DRAFT YOU AS A SANDBAG IN THE NEW ARMY OR EAT YOU FOR LUNCH!

I SMOKE FOR TAR

Fly me to L.A.

BUY NOW

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE WITH YOU!

DISCO WORLD

AVENGER

YOU GOTTA ADJUST, MAN. THIS IS THE NEW WAVE.. SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.. I GOTTA ADMIT, THE GOOD OLD DAYS HAD THEIR MOMENTS, BUT THAT WAS BEFORE THE WHOLE SHITHOUSE GOT

CORPORATE CANCER

YEAH.. THE GOOD OLD DAYS. DOLLAR CUPPA COFFEE.. BOTTOMLESS CUP.. THOSE DAYS IT WAS STILL FUN TO TRY TO BEAT THE SYSTEM.. THE HEART ATTACK MACHINE.. THE BIG C.. IT WAS A REAL CHALLENGE IF YOU WERE A WORKER.. LIKE JOE HERE..

HANGING ON TO THE BILL OF GOODS HE WAS SOLD BY THE MEDIA CZARS.. HE WAS A MAGNIFICENT ANIMAL.

PAY THE BUTCHER
PAY THE BAKER
PAY THE WINNE-BAGO MAKER
SONY
LORD, HAVE PITY ON THE WORKING MAN.
THE WORKER.. HE MADE THE PAYMENTS ON THE AMERICAN DREAM.. HIS TAXES KEPT THE SHITHOUSE AFLOAT.. HE PAID THE PRICE, OK, AND NOT JUST IN BUCKS...
ROLLING
ROLLING ROCK
HE PAID WITH HIS TIME, HIS ENERGY, HIS HEALTH. THE STRESS AND STRAIN TOOK IT'S TOLL.. ARTERIES POPPIN' LIKE BALLOONS.. FLOPPIN' ON THE FLOOR WITH A BUSTED PUMP..
ARGH! MY HEART!
HUSTI
IT WAS NO JOKE. THE MEDICOS HAD IT COVERED, THOUGH.. IF YOU HAD THE CASH. ELECTRIC PACERS.. CORONARY BYPASS.. PIG VALVES..
OH MAN..
BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH..
..'CAUSE IF YOUR HEART SURVIVED ALL THOSE FATBURGERS, YOU WERE JUST IN TIME TO GET EATEN UP BY..
CANCER?
SHIT, BY THE TIME I GET CANCER THEY'LL HAVE A CURE.
..WELL, THEY WERE WORKIN ON IT, LET ME TELL YA.. WHITECOATS PLAYIN' WITH IT OVERTIME.. THE BEST TECHNOLOGY MONEY COULD BUY...
CONGRATULATIONS MY DEAR DR. BENWAY! I UNDERSTAND YOUVE FOUND A POSITIVE TREATMENT FOR CANCER OF THE THYMUS.
TRUE MY FRIEND.. BUT I'M AFRAID IT HASS A FEW UNPLEASANT ZIDE EFFECTS.
OH? NAUSEA? WEAKNESS?
NO.. CANCER OF ZA BRAIN TWO YEARS LATER.
CHEMOTHERAPY.. RADIATION.. ATOMIC BOMBARDMENT.. SURGURY.. AMPUTATION.. IF THEY COULDN'T KILL IT THEY CUT IT OUT.. OR OFF.. YOU DIDN'T NEED IT ANYWAY.. GIVE YOU A NEW ONE.. INDESTRUCTIBLE.. BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL.. OVERKILL? BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.. ANYWAY, WHAT'S A FEW CELLS..
CONGATULATIONS MR. BUKOWSKI! YOUR CURED!
GREAT.

WITH AN AVERAGE "CURE" COIN' AT $30,000 A POP, CANCER TREATMENT ADDED UP TO BIG BUSINESS

BOX OF SHELLS ONLY COST YA FIVE BUCKS.

BILL

$ 27,327.

..AND THE HEALTH INDUSTRY OCTUPUS WAS NOT A SIMPLE ORGANISM. BIG INVESTMENT DEMANDS BIG PROTECTION. THE VERY CORPORATION THAT SOLD YOU THE CURE PRODUCED TONS OF CRAP SEEMINGLY DESIGNED ONLY TO KEEP DOCTORS IN BUSINESS..

TOXAL RONCH-KILLER

SWEET DANDY'S

COZMO GIRL

PEST BOOM

FUN TIME CONTRACEPTIVE FOAM

FRUIT ZAP MICROWAVE

PACKAM HAIR TILE

MOUNTAINS OF TOXIC JUNK GUARENTEED TO MAKE YOU SICK.

NONFOOD EDIBLES BY THE CARLOAD SEAS OF CHEMICAL ADDITIVES..

WHADDIYA WANT - RING DINGS, YO-YO'S OR HO-HO'S

LET'S GET EITHER BOTH OR HOO HAH'S!

IN THE 80'S YOU COULD DRIVE COAST TO COAST EATING IN RESTAURANTS ALL THE WAY AND REAL FOOD WOULD NEVER TOUCH YOUR LIPS... THAT IS, IF YOU COULD AFFORD THE GAS. EVEN NON-JUNK FOODS WERE SATURATED BY CARCINOGENIC STORMS IN THE FIELDS.. TOXIC TYPHOONS SATURATED GRAINS & PRODUCE..

BIG DOG

STOP 'N' SLOP

MOTEL

BURGER CITY

SLUDGE BURGER

GRUNT BURGER DRIVE IN FISH PITS · SHAKES · SLUPPIES

POISONOUS CLOUDS DRIFTED ACROSS THE FACE OF AMERICA. TOXINS DEVELOPED TO RID THE STERILE FIELDS OF RESISTANT PESTS. POLLUTED HER WATERS..

THE CORPORATE CANCER COMPANIES CHURNED OUT NEW CASES WITH EVERY PRODUCT THEY INTRODUCED. DEATH IN SHINY PACKAGING.. THE STUFF TOO OBVIOUSLY LETHAL WAS EXPORTED TO THE THIRD WORLD..

PESTICIDE

HAVA BEEG BANANA BEEG BOY? CHA CHA BHA?

ONLY TO BE RE-IMPORTED AND CONSUMED AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE..

THE HEAVIER STUFF FOUND DOMESTIC MARKETS AS WELL... NATIONAL SECURITY IS NOT A BAD SALES PITCH FOR MOVING PRODUCT.

FAGGOT!

AIEEE!

WHEEL CHAIR ACCESS EQUAL RIGHTS FOR DISABLED

PWAF!

THE **FOREIGN MARKET** WAS THE BEST OUTLET FOR THE REAL CRUSHER STUFF. KOREAS, CAMBODIAS, VIETNAMS.. WEATHER CONTROL, DEFOLIATION, AND GOOD OLDFASHIONED HARDWARE*

Oops. I think that was some of our guys.

* SHIT LIKE THE M 34 CLUSTER BOMB F'RINSTANCE.. Contains 76 (count 'em) M125A1 Non Persistant Gas Bombs, each containing 2.6 Lbs. of GB Sarin Nerve Gas... OR MAYBE THE AN-M47 A2 100 LB. All Purpose Chemical Bomb containing Mustard Gas, White Phosphorous, Phosgene, Hydrocyanic Gas, or Flaming Jelly... Whoopie!

IF JOHNNY CAME MARCHING HOME AT ALL, IT WAS AS LIKELY WITH A DOSE OF **AGENT ORANGE** AS WITH A DOSE OF **VIET CLAP.**

Hurry up Vince, I'm Hurtin'!

NGH

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE JUNGLE, THE FACTORIES, THE MILLS, THE MINES, THE INDUSTRIAL PITS WERE AS DEADLY AS ANY BATTLE FIELD. THE FOLKS WHO SURVIVED JUNK LIFESTYLE DROPPED ON THE JOB.. LUNGFULS OF ASBESTOS, CHEMICAL **CLOUDS**..

POISONED VISTAS, DEATHHEAD GRINING, BLACK TEETH, GAPING DEAD EYE SOCKET LIKE SCREAM.

HEY MAN, **COOL IT A MINIT!**

LISSEN, I'M THE GUY'S GOTTA **DRAW** THIS SHIT AND I'VE GOTTA FEW THINGS TO SAY. THIS AIN'T MY IDEA OF A **GOOD TIME!**

.. YOU THINK DRAWING LITTLE CARTOONS IS FUN, RIGHT? LOTSA LAFFS, HEY? WELL YOU'RE WRONG. IT'S DEPRESSING, IF YOU WANTA KNOW THE TRUTH.. I MEAN, **CANCER COMICS**, CAN YOU DIG IT? IT AIN'T EVEN VAGUELY FUNNY, NO MATTER HOW YA TWIST IT. I'M **SURE NOBODY WANTS TO HEAR ABOUT IT**, AND I SURE AS SHIT DON'T WANTA HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT, MUCH LESS COME UP WITH FUNNY CANCER **ONE LINERS**. AND THE MORE YOU FIND OUT ABOUT IT, THE WORSE IT GETS..

I MEAN I DON'T WANNA SOUND LIKE I'M COMPLAININ' OR NOTHIN', BUT THERE ARE OTHER SUBJECTS I'D RATHER DO STORIES ON. OK. SO I GOT THIS CANCER STORY TO DO.. LIFE AIN'T PERFECT, Y'KNOW? YOU GOTTA EAT AFTER ALL.. SO I'M DOIN' THE STORY, AND I NEED TA GET INFO, YA DIG? SO I START..

READIN', LISTENIN' TO THE MEDIA, DOIN' A LITTLE RESEARCH.. CHRIST, YOU DON'T HAFTA LOOK VERY HARD BEFORE YOU'RE SUICIDAL FROM THIS AVALANCHE OF DEPRESSING STATISTICS. I MEAN TODAY'S PAPER HAD THREE STORIES IN FIVE PAGES. DES.. KAREN SILKWOOD CONTAMINATION TRIAL.. SHIPYARD WORKER'S ASBESTOS EXPOSURE

THE GUYS THAT WORKED IN THE SHIPYARDS DURING WORLD WAR II ARE ALL DROPPIN' FROM LUNG CANCER TODAY BECAUSE OF THE LITTLE NEEDLE-LIKE FIBERS THEY BREATHED FROM THE ASBESTOS THEY WERE HANDLIN'... WELL, IT WAS THE WAR.. NOBODY HAD TIME TO RESEARCH THAT SHIT.. THEY JUST DIDN'T KNOW... WE'RE BACK TO NATIONAL SECURITY..

..AND IT'S JUST TOUGH SHIT FOR ALL THOSE POOR SUCKERS WITH MALIGNANT LUNGS. STILL, MAKES YA WONDER HOW THE 80,000 OR SO ASBESTOS WORKERS PUTTIN' IN THEIR 40 A WEEK TODAY ARE GONNA FEEL IN ABOUT 30 YEARS. I GUESS THEY GIVE 'EM LITTLE RUBBER RESPIRATORS TODAY. HOW ABOUT THE JOJO WHO STANDS NEXT TO A MICROWAVE OVEN ALL DAY, OR THE DENTAL ASSISTANT WHO RUNS THE X-RAY MACHINE? WHO CLEANED UP AFTER THREE MILE ISLAND? WAS IT WORTH THE TIME-AND-A-HALF? HOPE THOSE CHUMPS GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN. I MEAN IT'S NOT JUST ISOLATED JOB RELATED HAZARDS. JUST LIVIN' IN ANY BIG CITY EXPOSES YOU TO A WHOLE RANGE OF PROBLEMS THAT NO ONE EVEN KNOWS ABOUT, AND IF THEY DO KNOW ABOUT 'EM, YOU CAN BET THAT THE FAT CATS WHO MAKE THEIR FORTUNES EXPLOITING FOLKS LIKE YOU AN' ME ARE GONNA DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO KEEP THAT INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC SO THEY CAN BLEED US FOR AS MUCH AS THEY CAN BEFORE SOME AGENCY FINALLY SLAPS THEIR HAND AND FORCES THEM TO PEDDLE THEIR POISONS TO SOME UNSUSPECTING THIRD WORLD COUNTRY WHILE THEY'VE GOT SOME BRAND NEW CONCOCTION FOR US — AND THE INCREDIBLE THING IS THAT WE GO FOR IT.. I MEAN SOMEBODY BUYS ALL THAT SHIT.. WE'RE JUST AS BAD AS THE GUYS WHO MAKE THE SHIT IF WE'RE STUPID ENOUGH TO CONSUME THE GARBAGE AND CREATE A MARKET FOR THOSE ASSHOLES. AND SPEAKING OF EXPLOITATION, ISN'T A SO-CALLED EDUCATIONAL COMIC BOOK JUST ANOTHER FORM OF EXPLOITATION.. I MEAN DEPICTING SICK PEOPLE AS GROTESQUE AND INHUMAN FOR THE SAKE OF A FEW YUKS.. AND TO WHAT END? WHO MAKES THE BUCKS OFFA THESE COMICS ANYWAY? NOT ME, THAT'S FOR GODDAMN SURE. I MEAN, YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I GET PAID FOR DOING THIS STUFF? FIFTY BUCKS A PAGE. SOUND GOOD? WELL, LEMME TELL YA, IT TAKES TWO DAYS TO CRANK OUT A PAGE OF THIS PULP WHICH COMES OUT TO ABOUT $125 A WEEK.. WELL, WITH THE DEGREE OF ABSOLUTE IT SHOULD BE PRETTY OBVIOUS WHY WHAT [illegible] WHO CAN WRING [illegible] .. I MEAN WITH THE SYSTEM [illegible] OF MERCE. JUSTICE! SHIT.. THERE IS NO JUSTICE AND THE MUSIC [illegible] AS WELL TO DO PROPERLY. I MEAN, MY PLACE IN ALL OF THIS IS [illegible]

GOD.. WHAT TH HELL

JEEZE.. WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT THAT TURKEY.. NOT BAD ENOUGH THAT HE CAN'T TAKE A JOKE, BUT HE HAD TO RESORT TO A CHEAP SHOT LIKE THAT TO WRAP UP HIS MISERABLE COMIC STRIP! WELL, NO MATTER.. HE WAS PROBABLY EATEN UP WITH THE FIRST WAVE OF THE BIG SHIT STORM. YOU GOTTA PAY YOUR DUES TO PLAY THE BLUES.. HEH HEH

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* RESEARCH AND ASSISTANCE BY M. IRONS. LYRICS BY E. COSTELLO · ONE LINERS BY KANGAROO · THANKS FOLKS!

DARNOLD DUCK

in

"DARNOLD'S DILEMMA"

by

FROTH

(WITH APOLOGIES TO VILLIE ELDER.)

WAK WAK!

DARNOLD GOT A LETTER THIS MORNING.

IT WAS FROM HIS SAINTED MOTHER, WHO LAID HIM AS AN EGG.. NURSED HIM AS A BABE.

WAAAAK WAAA!

..CHANGED HIS DIPES..

..WHO TOOK HIM TO THE DOCTOR..

COME ON DARNOLD, THERE'S A GOOD BOY.. DUCK ..ER.. BOYDUCK

WAAAAK! WAAAK!

..WHO CUT OUT HIS TONSILS. AFTER THE KNIFE, THERE WAS ICE CREAM

SNUK!

LATER, THEY BOMBARDED HIS TONSIL STUMPS WITH RADIUM ON A LITTLE STICK.

HOLD ON DARNOLD, THIS WON'T HURT!

TWENTY FIVE YEARS LATER, DARNOLD GOT A LETTER .. TODAY.

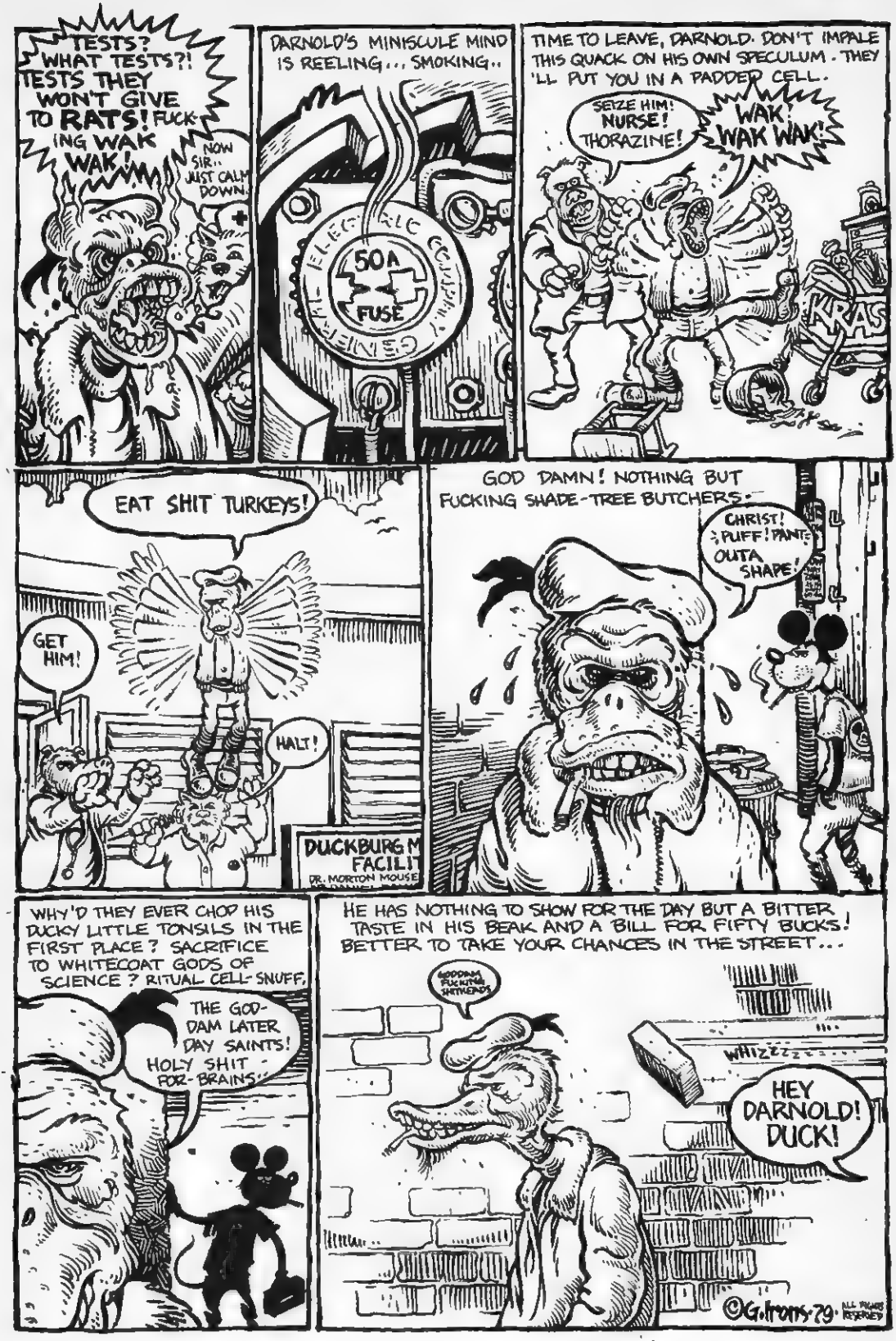
Dear Darnold,

I'm sorry I have to write this letter but things are important. When you left Boxcrits out of a hatching, you were given a fine & fond farewell. But now [illegible] Boxcrits [illegible] developed Cancer of the throat. Only as a result of this treatment. I don't want to alarm you, but I think it

POOR DARNOLD.

DARNOLD'S MAMA SAW A SPECIAL ON THE TUBE ABOUT RADIUM TREATMENTS AND CANCER.
CANCER AND RADIATION
SHUT UP! GODDAM MEDIA QUACK QUACK!
NO! WAIT! JOHNNY CARSON IN TEN MIN!
SMASH
KBOOM
DARNOLD MISSED IT.
HIS TV BROKE.
TV SAYS THOSE RADIUM LOLLIPOPS GAVE LOTSA KIDS MALIGNANT THYROIDS. TWENTY-THIRTY YEARS LATER.
NGH
PROBE FEEL
WELL. MAYBE ALL THAT RADIATION WASN'T SUCH A HOT IDEA, HEH HEH.
YEAH. HEH HEH, DARNOLD.
DARNOLD'S DAY HAS BEEN RUINED.
Wrrr...
HE'S MADE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE WHITECOATS.. FOR TOMORROW. RIGHT NOW HE'S HEADED FOR THE BAR..
.. HE'S CELEBRATING ZEN WITH HIS FELLOW DEVOTEES.
RC Cola

THE NEXT DAY FINDS DARNOLD AT THE MEDICO'S. THE USUAL FORMS. THE USUAL WAIT. THE USUAL SWEATY PALMS.
MR. DUCK?
CANCER NEWS
THE DOC EXAMINES HIM FOR THE DREADED TELLTALE SIGNS. MYSTERIOUS LUMPS. UNHEALED SORES. BACK MOLES. ABNORMAL DISCHARGE.
HMM..
THE PRELIMINARY PROBE REVEALS NOTHING. WELL. SO FAR SO GOOD.
HAS DARNOLD GOTTEN AWAY CLEAN..?
WELL, YOUR GENERAL CONDITION ISN'T SURPRISING CONSIDERING YOUR LIFESTYLE..
..SO FAR EVERYTHING'S CHECKED NEGATIVE. STILL, WE LIKE TO BE SURE... TO PLAY IT SAFE, SO TO SPEAK. I CAN ARRANGE ALL THE TESTS..NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT..
ALL WHAT TESTS?
THE LATEST LASER SCAN! THE RADIO-CARCENOMA PROBE! THE ATOMIC ENEMA! FAST..ACCURATE..
THIS IS A SIMPLE PROCEDURE. WE JUST INJECT YOU WITH THIS RADIOACTIVE DYE AND THEN GIVE YOU A LITTLE SCAN..
WUK! WOK! WAK!
SHIT YOU ARE! YOU CAN SHOVE THAT GREASE GUN UP YOUR GODDAM
NOW NOW MR. DUCK, THIS IS A VERY SIMPLE, ROUTINE..
ROUTINE WHAT? YOU GONNA GIVE ME A ROUTINE CASE OF CANCER OF THE BRAINS ROUTINE?
NOW MR. ALL OF THESE TESTS..


TESTS? WHAT TESTS?! TESTS THEY WON'T GIVE TO RATS! FUCKING WAK WAK!
NOW SIR.. JUST CALM DOWN.
DARNOLD'S MINISCULE MIND IS REELING... SMOKING..
50A FUSE
TIME TO LEAVE, DARNOLD. DON'T IMPALE THIS QUACK ON HIS OWN SPECULUM. THEY 'LL PUT YOU IN A PADDED CELL.
SEIZE HIM! NURSE! THORAZINE!
WAK! WAK WAK!
EAT SHIT TURKEYS!
GET HIM!
HALT!
DUCKBURG M FACILIT
DR. MORTON MOUSE
GOD DAMN! NOTHING BUT FUCKING SHADE-TREE BUTCHERS.
CHRIST! PUFF! PANT! OUTA SHAPE!
WHY'D THEY EVER CHOP HIS DUCKY LITTLE TONSILS IN THE FIRST PLACE? SACRIFICE TO WHITECOAT GODS OF SCIENCE? RITUAL CELL-SNUFF.
THE GOD-DAM LATER DAY SAINTS! HOLY SHIT-FOR-BRAINS..
HE HAS NOTHING TO SHOW FOR THE DAY BUT A BITTER TASTE IN HIS BEAK AND A BILL FOR FIFTY BUCKS! BETTER TO TAKE YOUR CHANCES IN THE STREET...
GODDAMN FUCKING SHITHEADS
WHIZZZZZ...
HEY DARNOLD! DUCK!
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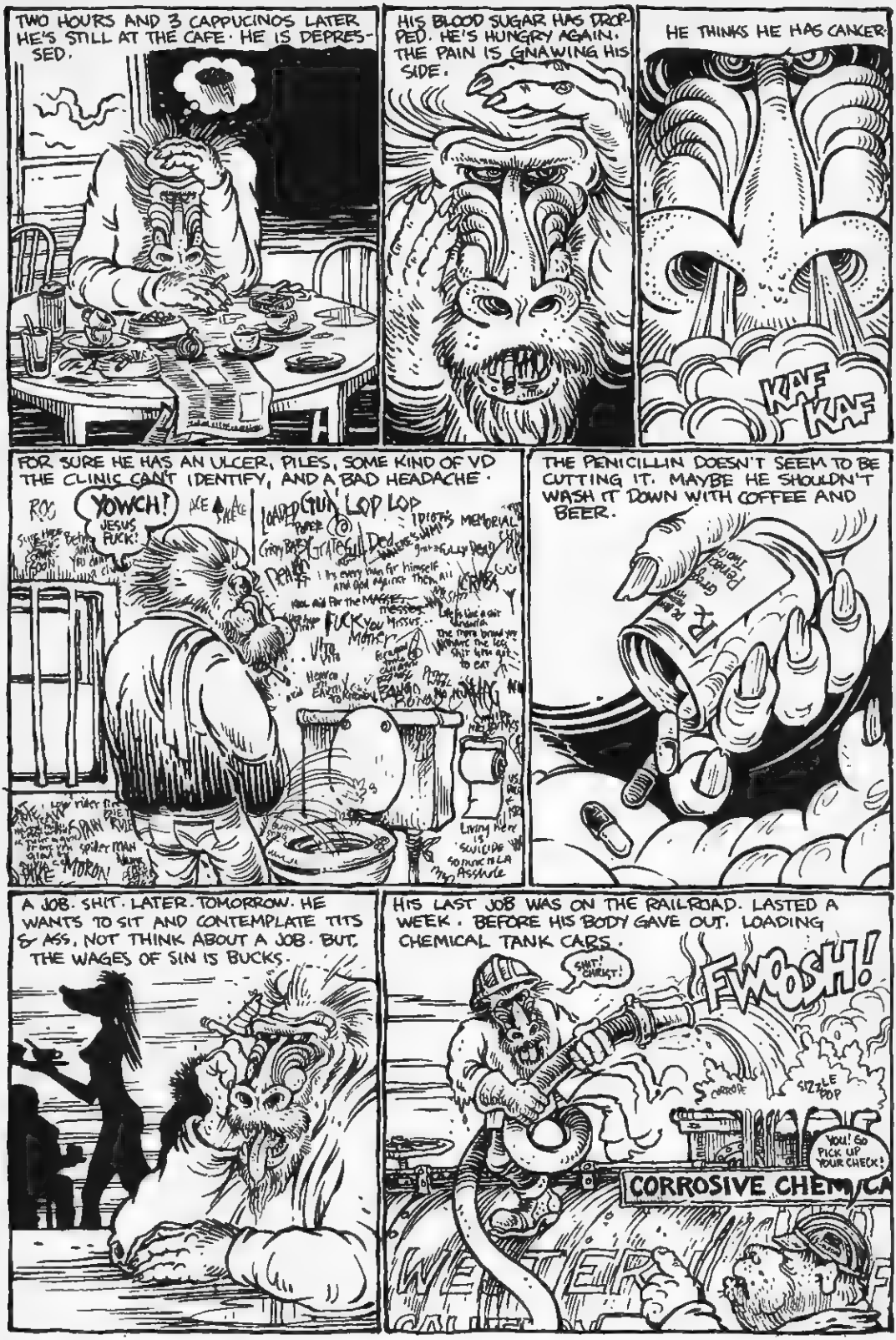
CASE HISTORY of GREGOR, PURPLEASS BABOON..

by Proys


TWO HOURS AND 3 CAPPUCINOS LATER HE'S STILL AT THE CAFE. HE IS DEPRESSED.
HIS BLOOD SUGAR HAS DROPPED. HE'S HUNGRY AGAIN. THE PAIN IS GNAWING HIS SIDE.
HE THINKS HE HAS CANCER.
KAF KAF
FOR SURE HE HAS AN ULCER, PILES, SOME KIND OF VD THE CLINIC CAN'T IDENTIFY, AND A BAD HEADACHE.
YOWCH! JESUS FUCK!
FUCK YOU MOTHER
MORON!
THE PENICILLIN DOESN'T SEEM TO BE CUTTING IT. MAYBE HE SHOULDN'T WASH IT DOWN WITH COFFEE AND BEER.
A JOB. SHIT. LATER. TOMORROW. HE WANTS TO SIT AND CONTEMPLATE TITS & ASS, NOT THINK ABOUT A JOB. BUT, THE WAGES OF SIN IS BUCKS.
HIS LAST JOB WAS ON THE RAILROAD. LASTED A WEEK. BEFORE HIS BODY GAVE OUT. LOADING CHEMICAL TANK CARS.
SHIT! CHRIST!
FWOOSH!
SIZZLE POP
YOU! GO PICK UP YOUR CHECK!
CORROSIVE CHEMICAL

BEFORE THAT HE CLEANED SWIMMING POOLS WITH LIQUID CARCINOGENS. FIFTY YARD FREESTYLE IN A CLOUD OF TOXIC GAS.

WHEEZE!

ACID CAUTION

LASTED TWO MONTHS BEFORE HE FELL OFF A DIVING BOARD. INTO AN EMPTY POOL.

WOW! 1½ TWISTING GAINER AND A HALF!

AAAIEEEE

HIS LUNGS DIDN'T FEEL TOO GOOD BEFORE THE FALL. HIS RIBS DIDN'T FEEL TOO GOOD AFTERWARDS.

A BRIEF STINT WITH YELLOW CAB. SITTING IN THE TRAFFIC. PLAYING TAXI DRIVER.

SLURP SLURP SLURP

BREATHING ETHYL. A MARK FOR ALL THE BAD CRAZIES. ONLY GAME IN TOWN. WASN'T LONG TILL HE WAS BACK AT THE CAFE.

GEORGE!

WORKED IN A PRINTING PLANT. IN THE DARKROOM. MORE CHEMICAL DELIGHTS. RED BULBS. BAD VISION. DANCING SPOTS. DIZZY SPELLS. ROARING IN HIS EARS.

*

HIS CANCER HURTS. IF IT IS CANCER. MIGHT AS WELL BE. IF NOT NOW, SOON. HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT HIS X-RAYS WOULD LOOK LIKE .. GUTS LIKE ERROL FLYNN'S.

I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT PRETTY, GREGOR!

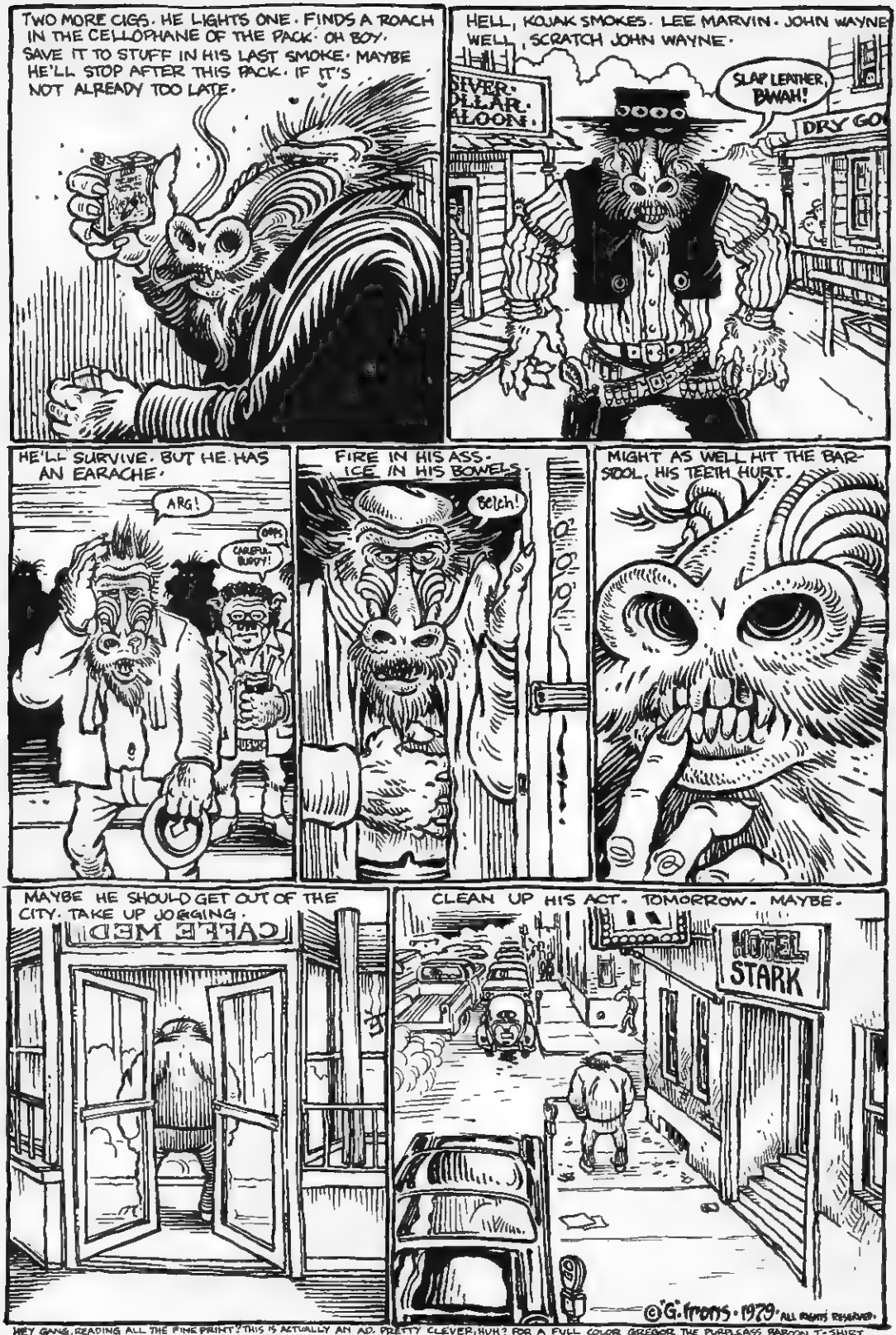
X-RAYS

TOO MUCH VICE. TOO MUCH DRUGS. TOO MUCH CIGARETTES. TOO MUCH BEERS. TOO MUCH TALKING TO THE TV SET. WATCHING THE DETECTIVES. KOJAK'S HIS FAVE.

NO SWEET, BABY!

JEEZ, YOU SO COOL KOJAK.

* ONLY GET TO USE THIS PANEL ONCE PER 100 YRS. . . . HADDA DO FOR IT.



HEY GANG, READING ALL THE FINE PRINT? THIS IS ACTUALLY AN AD. PRETTY CLEVER, HUH? FOR A FULL COLOR GREGOR THE PURPLEASS BABOON T-SHIRT SEND $10.50 TO GREGOR, PO BOX 7081, BERKELEY, CA INDICATE S, M, L, XL. MAKE GREGOR HAPPY AND RICH. RATED X - LIMITED OFFER. DO IT NOW.

FROM DEEP INSIDE A HUMAN LUNG (PERHAPS YOURS) WE FIND KING CANCER RANTING, RAVING AGAINST A STORY OF HOPE, OF CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH, OF LIFE OVER DEATH...

TO KILL A KING

THIS IS **MADNESS!** LUNACY! YOU MUST NOT DO THIS THING... AS YOUR KING I COMMAND YOU! **STOP** THIS FOOLISHNESS!!

DENNIS SIMPSON '77

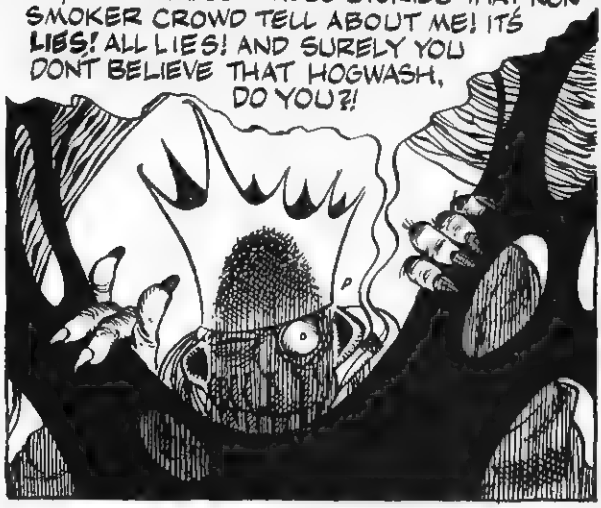
©1977

ALL THESE YEARS YOU AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER! YES, YOU NEEDED ME ALL THOSE TIMES... NOW YOU SAY YOU CAN QUIT SMOKING! YOU FOOL! YOU NEED ME! I AM YOUR KING AND YOU ARE MY LOYAL SUBJECT... LET'S JUST FORGET THIS QUITTING MATTER... **AS OF NOW!!**

I MADE YOU! YOU LOOKED **SMART** AND **SUAVE** WITH A CIGARETTE HANGING FROM YOUR MOUTH... AH, LIKE BOGART OR SINATRA... COOL AND TOGETHER! I HELPED GIVE YOU CLASS, DISTINCTION... SO LITTLE FRIEND, LET'S NOT BE TOO HASTY!

YOU CAN'T QUIT ME NOW! ALLRIGHT, SO YOU'VE GONE FOR TWO WEEKS WITHOUT A SMOKE, YOU HAVE HAD YOUR LITTLE REST... I WANT YOU TO LIGHT UP... **I ORDER IT!!**

REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST MET BACK AT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME? YOU LIKED ME AND I LIKED YOU!... WE HAD FUN, REMEMBER?


OH, I KNOW ABOUT THOSE STORIES THAT NON-SMOKER CROWD TELL ABOUT ME! IT'S LIES! ALL LIES! AND SURELY YOU DONT BELIEVE THAT HOGWASH, DO YOU?!

LOOK, A LITTLE JOKE, YOU'RE SO DAMN SERIOUS OF LATE, "KEEP ON PUFFIN" HAHAHAHA! YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING!!

WELL, THIS ISN'T FUNNY! CUT BACK SOME, IF YOU MUST... BUT DONT QUIT ON ME! HELL, YOU WONT LIVE FOREVER ANYHOW! C'MON BUY A PACK... I'LL SPRING... C'MON!

GODAMMIT!!..NO! DONT DO THIS THING! I NEED YOU — CHOKE! — AH — PLEASE... LIGHT UP
PLEASE!!
PLEASE!

I WAS ALWAYS THERE WHEN YOU NEEDED ..SNIFF.. ME....
PLEASE GASP!

CHOKE... YOU CAN'T MEAN THIS!
, CAN'T SEE...
GETTING DARK...

DONT LET IT END THIS
SNIFF... GASP...
W... WAY...
CAN'T SEE...
CAN'T... GOD...
NO...
NO...
SPUK!

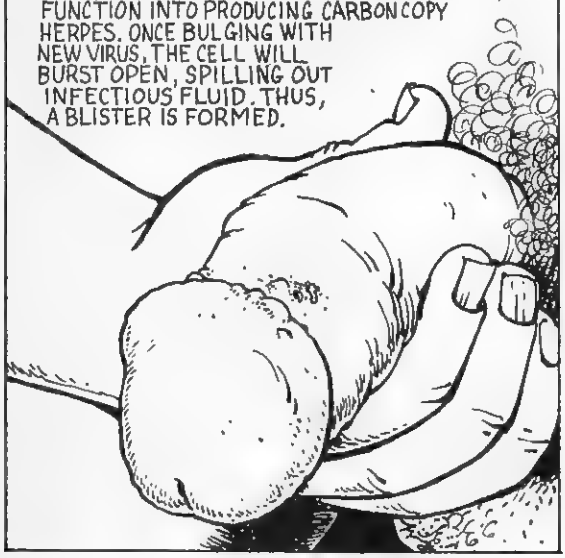
END OF STORY — PERHAPS YOURS?

HERPES IS A VIRUS.

© GUY COLWELL 1979

THE MOST FAMILIAR FORM IS HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE I — COLD SORES. THE MOST "POPULAR" FORM IS HERPES SIMPLEX TYPE II, A CLUSTER OF BLISTERS IDENTICAL TO COLD SORES, BUT LOCATED ON THE GENITALS OF EITHER MEN OR WOMEN. BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION, HERPES TYPE II IS GROUPED WITH OTHER VENEREAL DISEASES. THE SOFT MEMBRANE OF THE VAGINAL LIPS, AS WELL AS THE HEAD OF THE PENIS, AND ESPECIALLY THE SCAR TISSUE BELOW THE HEAD ON CIRCUMCISED MEN, PROVIDES A PERFECT HOME FOR THESE TINIEST OF LIVING ORGANISMS (THOUGH IN THEIR DORMANT STAGE IT IS DIFFICULT TO CALL THEM "ALIVE." THEY SEEM MORE LIKE INERT SPECKS OF MATTER WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF CRYSTAL).

SINCE IT IS UNABLE TO REPRODUCE ITSELF, HERPES, LIKE ALL OTHER VIRUSES, IS A PARASITE THAT MUST INVADE A HEALTHY CELL (IN THIS CASE A NERVE CELL) AND DIVERT IT FROM ITS NORMAL FUNCTION INTO PRODUCING CARBON COPY HERPES. ONCE BULGING WITH NEW VIRUS, THE CELL WILL BURST OPEN, SPILLING OUT INFECTIOUS FLUID. THUS, A BLISTER IS FORMED.



ANOTHER VIRUS WITH SIMILAR PROPERTIES GOES BY THE NAME HERPES ZOSTER. THIS VIRUS CAUSES CHICKEN POX AND SHINGLES, A DISEASE OF NERVE AND SKIN THAT ALSO FORMS BLISTER GROUPS, THOUGH GENERALLY ON THE TORSO, RATHER THAN AROUND AN ORAFICE. BUT ZOSTER IS ACTUALLY A BIT DIFFERENT VIRUS AND IS NOT THE MAIN SUBJECT OF THIS PIECE. NOR IS THE FOCUS THE FACT THAT HERPES IS ONE CAUSE OF ENCEPHALITIS, A SERIOUS AND SOMETIMES FATAL INFLAMMATION OF BRAIN TISSUE, THOUGH THIS WILL BE TOUCHED ON AGAIN NEAR THE END. IT IS HERPES TYPE II, VENEREAL HERPES, THE FACTS AND RAMIFICATIONS, THAT THIS STRIP IS ABOUT.

AS VENEREAL DISEASES GO, HERPES AT FIRST SEEMS, WELL, ALMOST COMICAL. GENITAL COLD SORES. A FEW TINY SPOTS THAT, EVEN LEFT UNTREATED, WILL HEAL IN A FEW DAYS.

'erps!

BUT, FAMILIARITY WITH THIS MINOR IRRITATION BRINGS TO THE AWARENESS THE FACT THAT HERPES HAS QUALITIES AND RAMIFICATIONS BOTH DISTURBING AND OMINOUS.

UNLIKE SYPHILIS OR GONORRHEA, HERPES HAS NO CURE. THAT IS, SO FAR THERE IS NO ACCEPTED AND AVAILABLE SYSTEMIC TREATMENT THAT WILL PUT AN END TO THE INFECTION, KILL THE VIRUS.

IN SUSCEPTIBLE —ESPECIALLY FAIR SKINNED— INDIVIDUALS, OUTBREAKS OF SORES CAN BECOME A LONG TERM PROBLEM, RECURRING EVERY TWO WEEKS TO A MONTH, OVER AND OVER AGAIN FOR YEARS AND YEARS.

ooo

IT IS INDEED DIFFICULT FOR THE PERSON WITH THIS INFECTION TO SHRUG IT OFF HUMOROUSLY, AND IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT SOME DISRUPTION OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND OF EMOTIONAL WELL BEING WILL BE LIKELY SIDE EFFECTS, AND THOUGH THE EPIDERMAL MANIFESTATION IS PROBLEM ENOUGH, THE DISEASE CONSISTS OF MORE THAN JUST A FEW RED SPOTS.

A DAY TO A WEEK BEFORE A NEW CLUSTER CAN BE SEEN, OTHER SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS WILL ANNOUNCE THE COMING OUTBREAK. THESE SYMPTOMS CONSIST OF PAIN AND MALAISE.

THE PAIN, A KIND OF NEURITIS, CAN BE NEARLY INCAPACITATING. ITS COURSE IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT EVERY TIME, BUT IT MAY START IN THE GENITALS, SPREAD THROUGH THE BUTTOCKS, DOWN THE LEGS AND INTO THE FEET.

Here we go again!

IT IS A WIDESPREAD SYMPATHETIC REACTION OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM TO THE TAKEOVER OF LIFE FUNCTION IN THE SMALL GROUP OF NERVE CELLS AFFECTED, AND OFTEN SEEMS WILDLY DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE RESULTING SPOTS.

THOUGH USUALLY LOCALIZED BELOW THE WAIST, THE PAIN CAN SOMETIMES ENGULF THE ENTIRE BODY, ACCOMPANIED BY FEVER AND DRAGGING WEAKNESS. BUT THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE A MASSIVE OUTBURST OF SORES WILL FOLLOW. A NEARLY DELERIOUS BOUT OF PAIN LIKE THIS IS AS LIKELY TO CULMINATE IN ONE TINY RED SPOT THAT HEALS IN TWO DAYS.

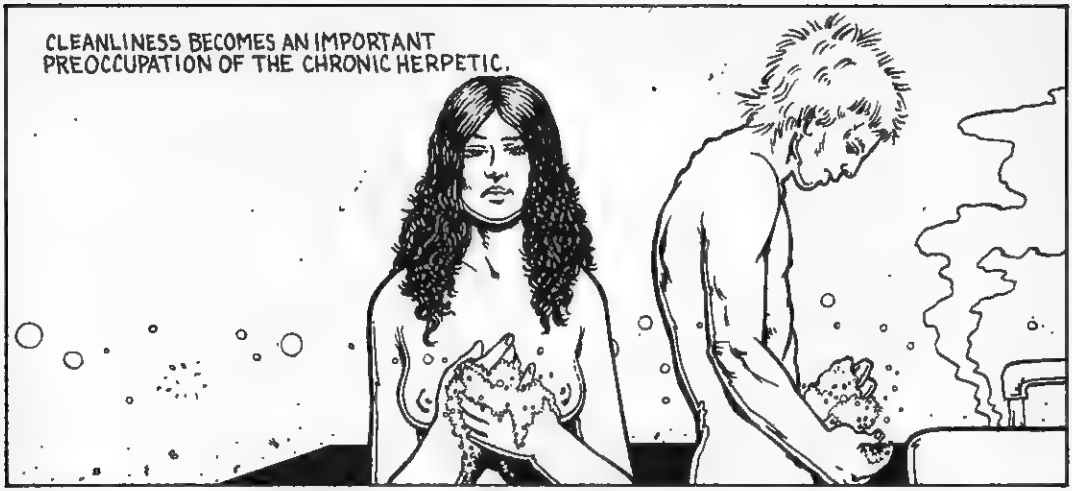
?

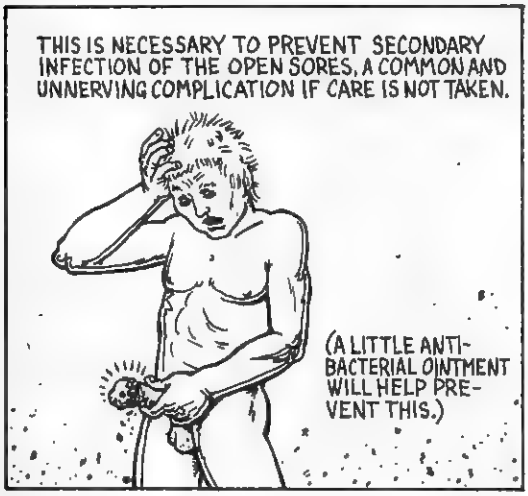
ON THE OTHER HAND, A SEEMINGLY INSIGNIFICANT THROBBING IN ONE TOE COULD PRESAGE A GAPING MOUND OF A DOZEN OOZING, PAINFUL BLISTERS THAT REMAIN AS FLAKING SCABS FOR A MONTH OR MORE.

Uh, Oh.

THESE ARE EXTREMES, THOUGH, A TYPICAL CYCLE WILL BE SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN. AND THE PAIN ONLY LASTS TILL THE BLISTERS BEGIN TO SHOW, THEN QUICKLY RECEDES. WHEN THE VIRUS IS VERY ACTIVE, OFTEN NEW SYMPTOMS START BEFORE OLD SORES HAVE COMPLETELY HEALED, SO FOR MONTHS AT A TIME THE HERPETIC MAY NEVER BE RID OF IT.

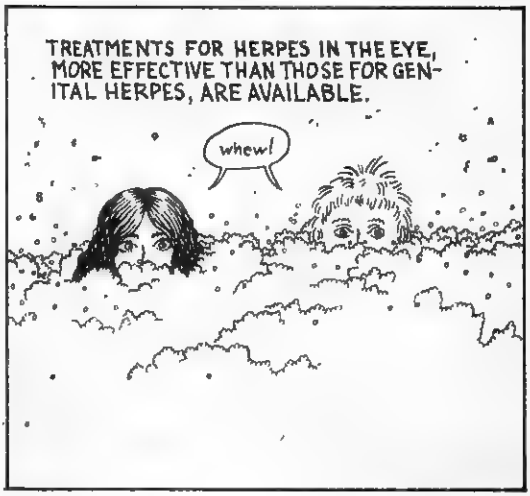
MARIJUANA CAN EASE THIS PAIN NICELY, BETTER THAN ASPIRIN, THE REGULAR HEAD CAN TELL YOU. BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS ALSO A WELL KNOWN FACT TO CHRONIC HERPETIC DOPERS, AS WELL AS TO RESEARCHERS, THAT GRASS IN SOME WAY INHIBITS WHAT LITTLE NATURAL RESISTANCE THE BODY HAS TO HERPES. MORE BLOW, MORE BLISTERS, SEEMS TO BE THE RULE.


CLEANLINESS BECOMES AN IMPORTANT PREOCCUPATION OF THE CHRONIC HERPETIC.


THIS IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT SECONDARY INFECTION OF THE OPEN SORES, A COMMON AND UNNERVING COMPLICATION IF CARE IS NOT TAKEN.
(A LITTLE ANTI-BACTERIAL OINTMENT WILL HELP PREVENT THIS.)

BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, THIS VIRUS IS SAID TO HAVE A PARTICULAR AFFINITY FOR THE CORNEA OF THE EYE, AND IF ALLOWED TO COLONIZE THERE, COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS, VISION OBSCURING SCARS.

CONSCIENTIOUS HAND WASHING AND CAREFUL AVOIDANCE OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH EYEBALL SHOULD PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING.


TREATMENTS FOR HERPES IN THE EYE, MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THOSE FOR GENITAL HERPES, ARE AVAILABLE.
whew!

SO FAR, THIS DESCRIPTION OF SYMPTOMS AND PRECAUTIONS APPLIES TO THE ACTION OF THE DISEASE IN BOTH THE MALE AND FEMALE. BUT FOR WOMEN, THIS VIRUS HAS SOME SPECIAL, VERY DISTRESSING CHARACTERISTICS.

Oh, no!

THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT HERPES IS INVOLVED IN CANCER OF THE CERVIX. THE CHRONICALLY HERPETIC WOMAN SHOULD HAVE SCREENING OF CELLS FROM THIS REGION DONE ROUTINELY.

CHILDBIRTH CAN BE DRASTICALLY AFFECTED, AS WELL. IF THE FOETUS COMES IN CONTACT WITH ACTIVE HERPES FROM OPEN VAGINAL SORES DURING BIRTH, IT COULD CONTRACT A SERIOUS INFECTION OF ITS OWN, WITH DAMAGE TO EYES, SKIN, BRAIN CELLS, OR DEATH BEING POSSIBLE RESULTS. TODAY CHILDREN OF HERPETIC WOMEN ARE ROUTINELY DELIVERED BY CEASARIAN SECTION TO AVOID THESE COMPLICATIONS.

SO THESE COMICAL COLD SORES OF COCK AND CUNT, IT SHOULD BE REALIZED, CAN BE A GREAT HAZARD TO THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THE UNFORTUNATE BODIES THAT ARE SUSCEPTIBLE, AND THOSE PEOPLE WHOSE BIOLOGICAL AND NERVOUS CONSTITUTIONS RESIST THE TENDENCY OF THIS "CREATURE" TO BREAK OUT OF ITS DORMANT FORM SHOULD COUNT THEMSELVES LUCKY.

THE FACT THAT HERPES PREFERS NERVE CELLS IS WHAT MAKES IT SO DIFFICULT TO TREAT. ANTIBODIES ARE FORMED IN THE BLOODSTREAM TO DEAL WITH VIRUS AND BACTERIA THAT CAN BE REACHED BY THE BLOOD, BUT THESE ANTIBODIES DO NOT GO INTO NERVE CELLS LOOKING FOR INVADERS.

AND IT'S BECAUSE NERVES ARE ATTACKED THAT HERPES CAN BE SO VERY PAINFUL. ACUTE SHINGLES, WITH ACTION SIMILAR TO GENITAL HERPES, IS KNOWN AS ONE OF THE MOST PAINFUL DISEASES THERE IS.

To the clinic

SO, ATTEMPTS TO TREAT VENEREAL HERPES HAVE SO FAR BEEN PRETTY MUCH CONFINED TO EXTERNAL, SUPERFICIAL ASSAULTS UPON THE NEW ACTIVE VIRUS WHEN IT SPILLS OUT OF THE BLISTERS; TRYING TO PREVENT REINFECTION BY WASHING AWAY OR "KILLING" AS LARGE A POPULATION AS POSSIBLE.

V.D. CLINIC

MANY HOME TREATMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. FOR MEN, ONE OF THE SIMPLEST, CHEAPEST AND IN MANY WAYS MOST EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS IS A WARM SALT WATER SOAK A FEW TIMES WHEN THE BLISTERS HAVE FORMED UP AND BROKEN OPEN.

SALT MAY NOT DESTROY THE NEW VIRUS, BUT IT DEFINITELY DRYS UP AND PROMOTES RAPID HEALING OF SORES.

say, babe?

LIQUID PREPARATIONS OF CAMPHOR, AS COMMONLY USED FOR COLD SORES ON THE LIPS, ARE QUITE GOOD AS WELL FOR GENITAL HERPES.

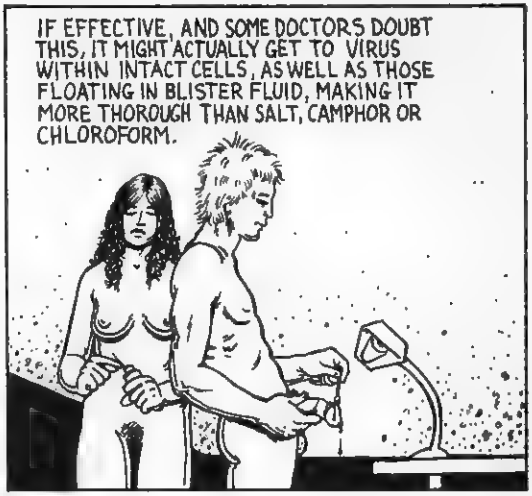
CAMP

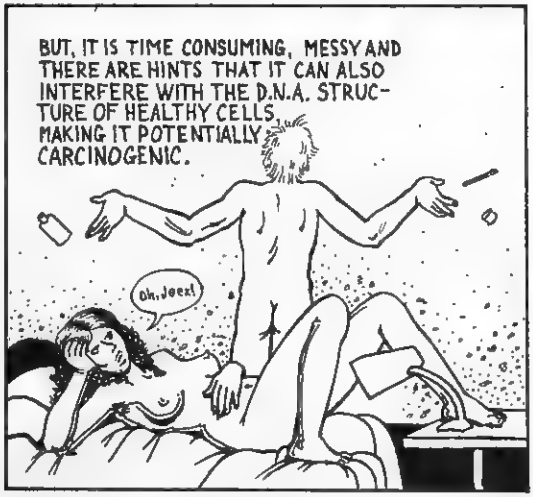
ANOTHER APPLICATION WITH "DRYING UP" QUALITIES EVEN STRONGER THAN SALT OR CAMPHOR IS CHLOROFORM, DABBED ON THE BLISTERS WHEN THEY CAN BE OPENED. THOUGH THIS STRONG FLUID VERY LIKELY "KILLS" THE VIRUS, IT REQUIRES A GREATER EXPENSE AND IT IS MOMENTARILY QUITE PAINFUL WHEN APPLIED.

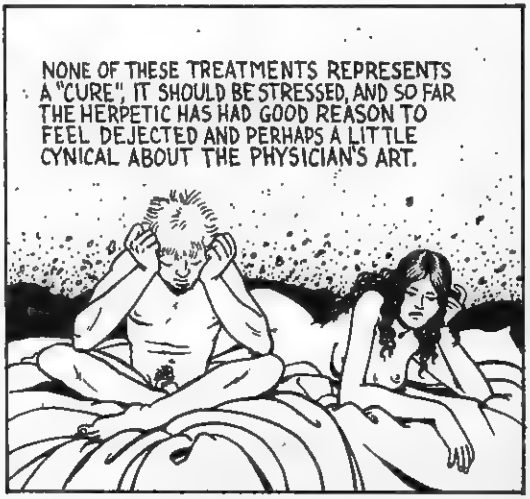
oh piss shit fuck

IT IS EASY TO FEEL A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE, TOO, HANDLING A SUBSTANCE AS POTENT, EVEN VOLITILE, AS CHLOROFORM. THOUGH DRINKING OR BREATHING IT IS NOT REQUIRED, THE LINK MADE RECENTLY BETWEEN IT AND CANCER, CAN MAKE THIS TREATMENT SEEM JUST A LITTLE TOO HAZARDOUS.

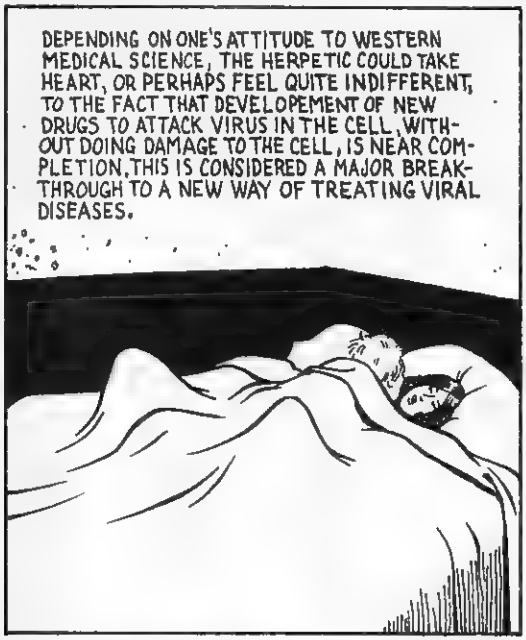
MORE COMPLICATED, EXPENSIVE AND YET EVEN MORE UNCERTAIN IS AQUEOUS RED. THIS IS A DYE WHICH WHEN APPLIED TO THE OPEN BLISTERS, AND EXPOSED TO FLOURESCENT LIGHT, MAY BREAK UP THE GENETIC MATERIAL OF WHICH THE VIRUS CONSISTS.
RED


IF EFFECTIVE, AND SOME DOCTORS DOUBT THIS, IT MIGHT ACTUALLY GET TO VIRUS WITHIN INTACT CELLS, AS WELL AS THOSE FLOATING IN BLISTER FLUID, MAKING IT MORE THOROUGH THAN SALT, CAMPHOR OR CHLOROFORM.

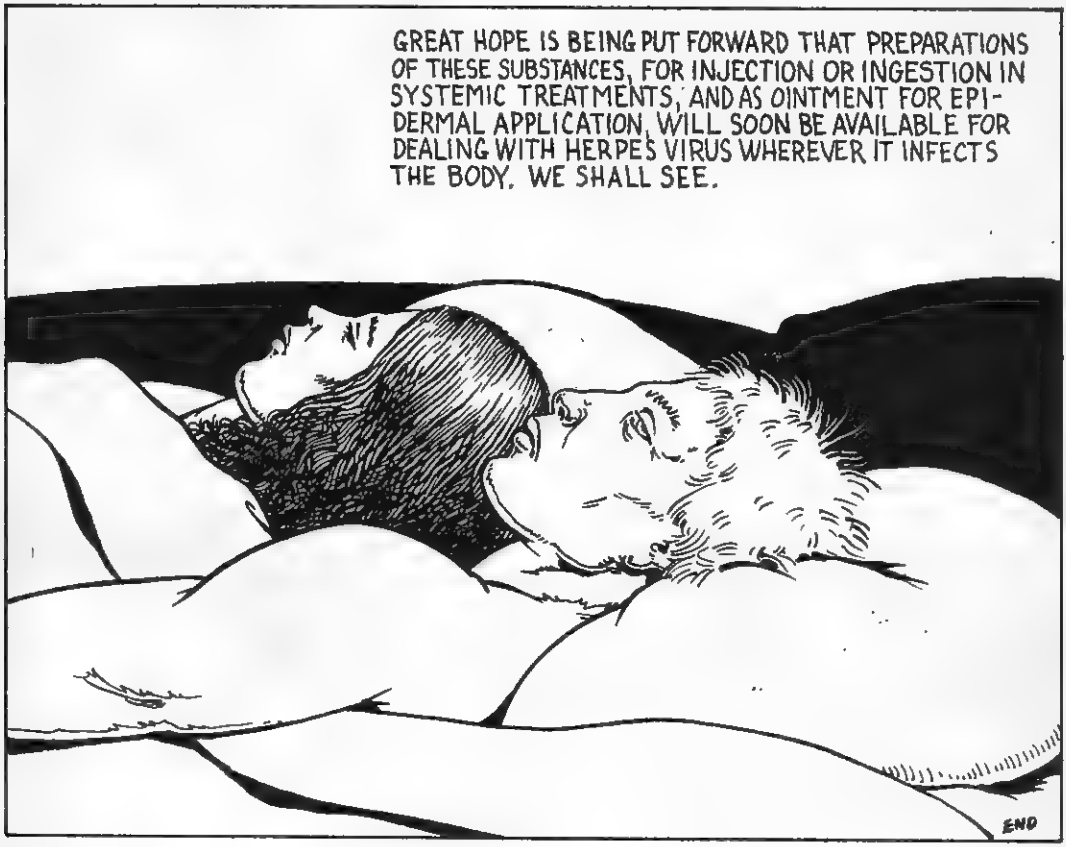

BUT, IT IS TIME CONSUMING, MESSY AND THERE ARE HINTS THAT IT CAN ALSO INTERFERE WITH THE D.N.A. STRUCTURE OF HEALTHY CELLS, MAKING IT POTENTIALLY CARCINOGENIC.
Oh, Jeez!


NONE OF THESE TREATMENTS REPRESENTS A "CURE", IT SHOULD BE STRESSED, AND SO FAR THE HERPETIC HAS HAD GOOD REASON TO FEEL DEJECTED AND PERHAPS A LITTLE CYNICAL ABOUT THE PHYSICIAN'S ART.

IT MAY BE THAT THE BEST ANSWER FOR THE CHRONIC HERPETIC IS FINALLY, AFTER ALL, GOOD HUMORED ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONDITION. AT LEAST THEN, WHILE WAITING FOR A NEW AND CERTAIN TREATMENT, THE VIRUS WILL NOT BE AGGRAVATED BY NERVOUS ANXIETY. AND IT MAY NOT BE LONG.

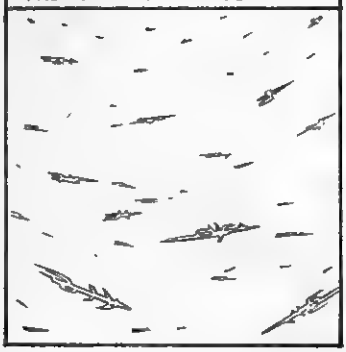

DEPENDING ON ONE'S ATTITUDE TO WESTERN MEDICAL SCIENCE, THE HERPETIC COULD TAKE HEART, OR PERHAPS FEEL QUITE INDIFFERENT, TO THE FACT THAT DEVELOPEMENT OF NEW DRUGS TO ATTACK VIRUS IN THE CELL, WITHOUT DOING DAMAGE TO THE CELL, IS NEAR COMPLETION. THIS IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH TO A NEW WAY OF TREATING VIRAL DISEASES.

THE CUTTING EDGE OF THIS RESEARCH IS IN THE APPLICATION OF THESE DRUGS SPECIFICALLY TO THE TREATMENT OF ENCEPHALITIS CAUSED BY HERPES VIRUS.

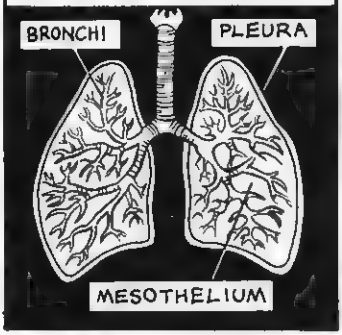

GREAT HOPE IS BEING PUT FORWARD THAT PREPARATIONS OF THESE SUBSTANCES, FOR INJECTION OR INGESTION IN SYSTEMIC TREATMENTS, AND AS OINTMENT FOR EPIDERMAL APPLICATION, WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FOR DEALING WITH HERPES VIRUS WHEREVER IT INFECTS THE BODY. WE SHALL SEE.
END

PROLOGUE: ***SLOW SUFFOCATION*** A BRIEF EXPOSITION OF ASBESTOSIS AND FIBROSIS.

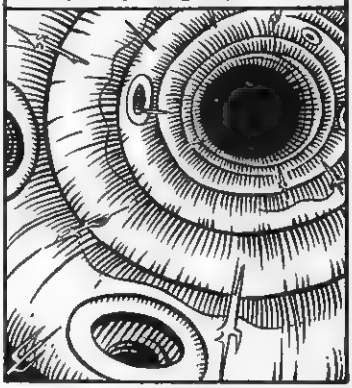
TINY WEIGHTLESS ASBESTOS PARTICLES CAN BE FOUND IN AIR SAMPLES THE WORLD OVER. HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY ARE DRAWN INTO THE HUMAN LUNG...



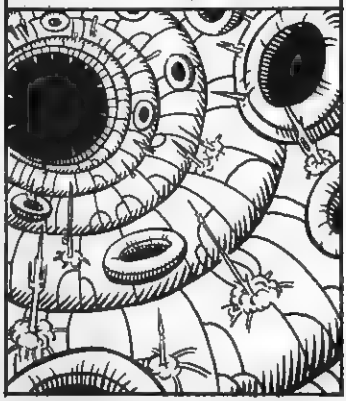
LUNGS ARE BASICALLY THE ***BRONCHI***, THE MANY BRANCHED TREE INSIDE THE LUNGS, THE ***MESOTHELIUM***, THE MEAT OF THE LUNGS, AND THE ***PLEURA***, THE BALLOON-SAC THAT HOLDS THE LUNGS TOGETHER.



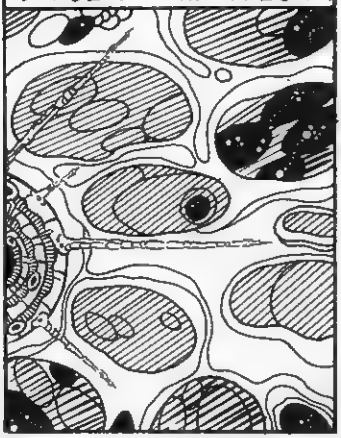
BARBED INDESTRUCTIBLE PARTICLES ENTER THE BRONCHIAL BRANCHES AND BECOME LODGED IN LUNG TISSUE.



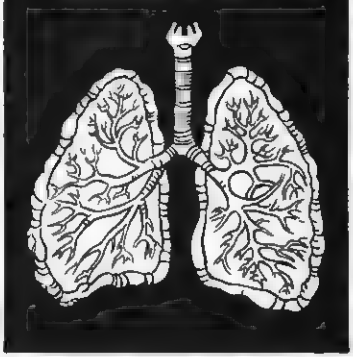
BECAUSE OF THEIR HARPOON-LIKE SHAPE THE PARTICLES CANNOT BE EXPELLED BY COUGHING, AS THEY SAW INTO THE TISSUE.



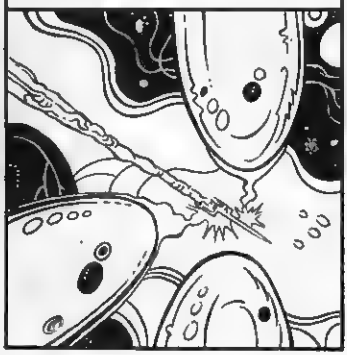
EVENTUALLY THEY BORE THRU THE MESOTHELIUM AND LODGE IN THE PLEURA.



THE PLEURA THICKENS, LOSES ELASTICITY, AND THE VICTIM CANNOT DRAW A BREATH.



WHITE BLOOD CELLS GENERATE ACIDS, ATTEMPTING TO DISSOLVE THE PARTICLES. SINCE ASBESTOS CANNOT BE OXIDIZED, THE SURROUNDING TISSUE ITSELF IS DESTROYED.



FIBROSIS IS A CONDITION CAUSED BY THE PRESENCE OF ASBESTOS IN WHICH LUNG TISSUE DEVIATES FROM ITS' NORMAL FORM AND FILLS THE LUNG CAVITY WITH FIBROUS TISSUE.

AFTER MANY YEARS THE BRONCHIAL TISSUE BECOMES INVOLVED TO THE POINT THAT THE VICTIM SLOWLY SUFFOCATES.

HI, GANG !! IT'S YOUR HOST IN HORROR, *THE OLD LUNG*, WITH A *RESPIRATORY RECITAL* THAT'LL *TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY*, HEH,... INDEED, YOU MAY WANT TO *GASP YOUR LAST* WHEN YOU READ ...

THE ASBESTOS WORKERS' REVENGE !!

SCRIPT: GEORGE DI CAPRIO ART: W.W. GREENWOOD

BUT YOU FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY...
WHEN YOU FINALLY HAD TO, YOUR PLEURA WAS REMOVED...
THEN THEY PUT A HOSE IN YOUR SIDE TO VENT THE LIQUID THAT BUILT UP...
A WEEK LATER THEY LOWERED YOUR BODY IN A GRAVE.
NOW THE TRUTH HAS COME TO LIGHT !! IT IS AS ROTTEN AS YOUR BODY IS NOW!! IT IS TIME TO REVISIT THAT COMPANY ISN'T IT ?! CHOOSE A TIME WHEN THEY'LL ALL BE THERE, THE DOCTORS, THE LAWYERS, THE CORPORATE PRESIDENTS...
CHOKE!
YES, IT'S TIME THEY WERE PICKED-OUT ONE BY ONE !!
GNYYAHHH!

I CAN *MOVE!!* BUT LOOK AT ME! HOW DID I WIND UP LIKE THIS? I REMEMBER NOW... AND I REMEMBER THE MEN WHO DID THIS TO ME.

WHEN I WORKED AT THE ASBESTOS PLANT... HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN THAT THE PEOPLE I WORKED FOR WERE SELLING DEATH?

SOME OF THE RESEARCHERS WARNED THE OWNERS OF THE PLANT ABOUT THE TERRIBLE EFFECTS OF ASBESTOS PARTICLES IN THE AIR WHERE WE WORKED.

THOSE DOCTORS WERE DISMISSED AND NEW ONES WERE HIRED UNTIL MORE *COOPERATIVE* DOCTORS WERE FOUND...

MANY OF THE WORKERS DIED... OF ASBESTOSIS OR ASBESTOS INDUCED CANCER. SOME WERE ACTUALLY 'COMPENSATED' BY THE COMPANY. THESE PAYMENTS WERE KEPT A SECRET BY AN INDUSTRY THAT PRETENDED NOTHING WAS WRONG.

YES, IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL. THE COMPANY COAXED EVERY HOUR OF PRODUCTIVITY FROM ME. AND I WAS NEVER INFORMED THAT ASBESTOS PARTICLES WERE CHOKING OFF MY AIR - LITTLE BY LITTLE.

BUT NOW, MY FORMER EMPLOYER, AS YOU SLEEP, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE *DEMONSTRATION*. '*IN VIVO*', I THINK, IS THE TERM THAT APPLIES HERE.

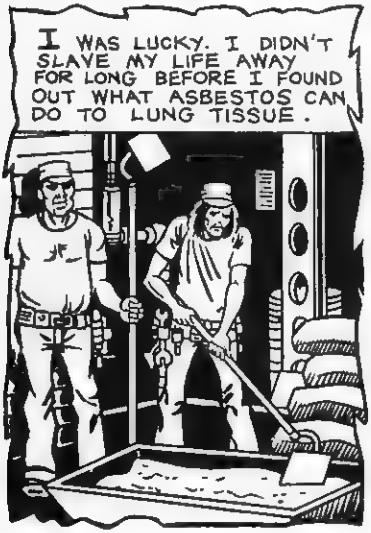
TELL ME IF YOU CAN, HOW DOES IT FEEL, THIS PILLOW STUFFING DEEP, DEEP IN YOUR LUNGS...

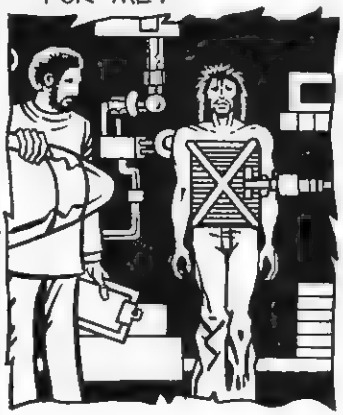
WHAT? NO OPINION? YOU SCUM!! TRY AND SCREAM!! CAN'T SCREAM?!!

TOO BAD, BOSS MAN, TOO BAD...

THE DEAD CAN'T STAY BURIED AND THERE CAN BE NO REST FOR MY KIND AS LONG AS THESE 'MEN', THESE 'DOCTORS' STILL HIDE...

JUDAS GOATS! PAID BY THE COMPANIES TO WRING OUT EVERY LAST PARTICLE OF ENERGY FROM THE WORKERS!!


I WAS LUCKY. I DIDN'T SLAVE MY LIFE AWAY FOR LONG BEFORE I FOUND OUT WHAT ASBESTOS CAN DO TO LUNG TISSUE.


I THOUGHT THE COMPANY DOCTORS WERE ON MY SIDE. I THOUGHT THEY WERE LOOKING OUT FOR ME.

BUT THE RESULTS OF THE X-RAYS FROM THE EMPLOYEE CHECKUPS WERE HIDDEN AWAY AS A MATTER OF COMPANY POLICY...

FINALLY, UNABLE TO WORK BECAUSE OF MESOTHELIOMA, I WAS HOSPITALIZED. THE ACID FROM MY OWN BODY'S DEFENSE SYSTEM WAS BURNING THROUGH MY LUNGS.

IT WAS TOO LATE FOR ME TO BE TREATED. BUT I WON'T LET THEM HIDE ME AWAY...

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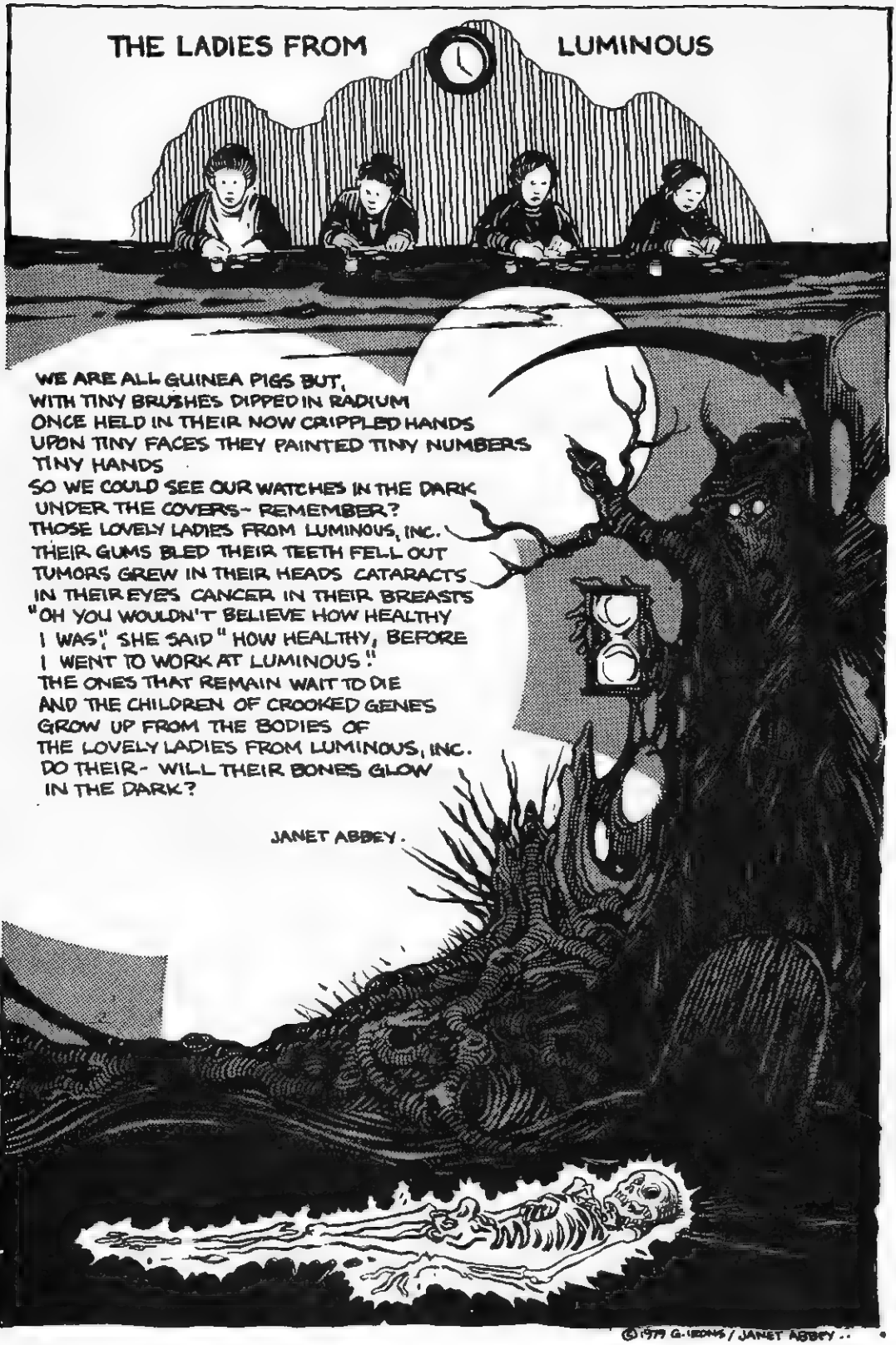
END.


THE LADIES FROM LUMINOUS
WE ARE ALL GUINEA PIGS BUT,
WITH TINY BRUSHES DIPPED IN RADIUM
ONCE HELD IN THEIR NOW CRIPPLED HANDS
UPON TINY FACES THEY PAINTED TINY NUMBERS
TINY HANDS
SO WE COULD SEE OUR WATCHES IN THE DARK
UNDER THE COVERS- REMEMBER?
THOSE LOVELY LADIES FROM LUMINOUS, INC.
THEIR GUMS BLED THEIR TEETH FELL OUT
TUMORS GREW IN THEIR HEADS CATARACTS
IN THEIR EYES CANCER IN THEIR BREASTS
"OH YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW HEALTHY
I WAS," SHE SAID "HOW HEALTHY, BEFORE
I WENT TO WORK AT LUMINOUS."
THE ONES THAT REMAIN WAIT TO DIE
AND THE CHILDREN OF CROOKED GENES
GROW UP FROM THE BODIES OF
THE LOVELY LADIES FROM LUMINOUS, INC.
DO THEIR- WILL THEIR BONES GLOW
IN THE DARK?
JANET ABBEY.
©1979 G. IRONS / JANET ABBEY

HEY KIDDO!! SAIGON SAL HERE... LONG TIME, NO SEE! I BOUGHT IT IN THE BOONIES BACK IN '68, BUT THATS ANOTHER STORY..

THE STORY I'M GONNA TELL YA BEGINS BACK IN THE EARLY 60'S DURING THOSE WILD, HEADY, EARLY DAYS OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM. BACK WHEN THE WAR WAS TOO NEW FOR A COLLECTIVE ANTI-WAR FEELING TO HAVE FORMED STATESIDE, BACK WHEN FOLKS WERE STILL IN SHOCK, UNABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING. UNRESTRAINED, THE VARIOUS AGENTS OF THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX; THE PENTAGON, RAND CORPORATION, THE C.I.A. ETAL WERE GLEEFULLY EXPERIMENTING WITH ALL MANNER OF EXOTIC AND DIABOLICAL WAR PARAPHERNALIA, PSYCHOLOGICAL MIND MESS & BETTER KILLING THROUGH CHEMISTRY. ONE MASTERPIECE OF THIS GREAT AMERICAN BRAIN TRUST WAS THE HIGHLY VISIBLE YET CURIOUSLY NON-CONTROVERSIAL PRACTICE OF DEFOLIATION. REMEMBER? DEFOLIATION WAS THE SPRAYING BY AIRCRAFT OF THE CHEMICAL AGENTS 2,4-D AND 2,4,5-T OVER VAST TRACTS OF JUNGLE AND WOODLAND THROUGHOUT VIETNAM. THESE COMPOUNDS, PRODUCTS OF DOWCHEMICAL, FORM THE DEADLY HERBICIDE AGENT ORANGE. THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF "OPERATION RANCHHAND" OVER 5 MILLION ACRES OF SOUTH VIETNAM WERE RENDERED STERILE DURING OUR YEARS THERE! THIS STORY DEALS WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THAT ORGY.

THE RANCHHAND LEGACY

A SPACE AGE SAGA

©1979 VUNG TAU VINCE

"SOMETIMES WE'D BE COVERED WITH IT.. GOD. I'LL NEVER FORGET THE SMELL !!"

MOST OF THE CHEMICAL WARFARE OPERATIONS FROM 1961 TO 1970 WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE AERIAL SPRAY FLIGHT OF THE 309TH AIR COMMANDO SQUADRON BASED AT BIEN HOA AIR BASE, NEAR SAIGON. OVER THE YEARS, THIS FINE GROUP DUMPED ABOUT 50 MILLION POUNDS OF AGENT ORANGE ON VIETNAM, ON THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM, ON THE FOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM AND ON A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF G.I.'S

THIS WAS AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN BY THE MILITARY CODE NAME "RANCHHAND" OR "HADES"...

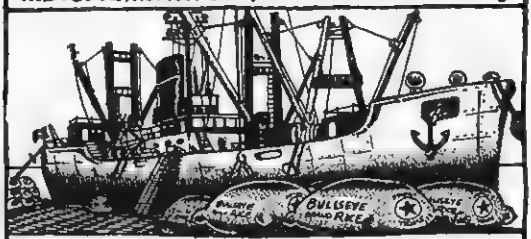
THE IDEA WAS TO KILL OFF THE VEGETATION IN A TARGET AREA, THUS DEPRIVING THE "VC" OF THEIR MUCH NEEDED COVER. ANOTHER OBJECTIVE OF THE SPRAYING WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF FOOD CROPS, MAINLY IN THE MEKONG DELTA, THUS COMPELLING THE PEASANTRY TO TAKE REFUGE IN CONTROLLED RESETTLEMENT CAMPS. THIS PRACTICE, LIKE OTHER U.S. ACTS OF WAR, WAS JUSTIFIED IN TERMS OF SAVING THE LIVES OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO WERE FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT OF VIETNAMESE EVERYWHERE TO BE GOOD AMERICANS.. ER... FREE!

LETS MAKE THAT CLEAR!

THIS "RESOURCE DENIAL" PROGRAM AND THE RESULTING STARVATION FAILED, HOWEVER, TO DEMORALIZE N.L.F. TROOPS. IN WAR, WHEN FOOD IS IN SHORT SUPPLY, FIGHTING TROOPS ARE THE FIRST TO BE FED, THE CIVILIANS EAT LEFTOVERS

DINNERTIME IN THE TUNNELS...

SOUTH VIETNAM - THE 'RICE BOWL' OF ASIA - USED TO EXPORTING 250,000 TONS OF RICE YEARLY, BEGAN TO IMPORT RICE FROM AMERICA TO FEED THE POPULATION... 850,000 TONS IN '68 ALONE!



CROPLANDS SPRAYED WITH DEFOLIANTS AS EARLY AS 1961 STILL HAVE SHOWN NO SIGNS OF RECOVERY. BUT CROPLANDS AND JUNGLES WEREN'T THE ONLY CASUALTIES OF AGENT ORANGE. NO, INDEED..

IN 1965, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT 2,4,5-T (N. BUTYL 2,3,4 TRICHLOROPHENOXYACETATE) WAS A POWERFUL TERATOGENIC (FETUS DEFORMING) SUBSTANCE. ALARMING RISES IN BIRTH DEFECTS THROUGHOUT VIETNAM LED SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS IN SAIGON TO QUESTION WHETHER AGENT ORANGE WAS RESPONSIBLE. THE GOVERNMENT OF MR. THIEU CLOSED THOSE PAPERS.

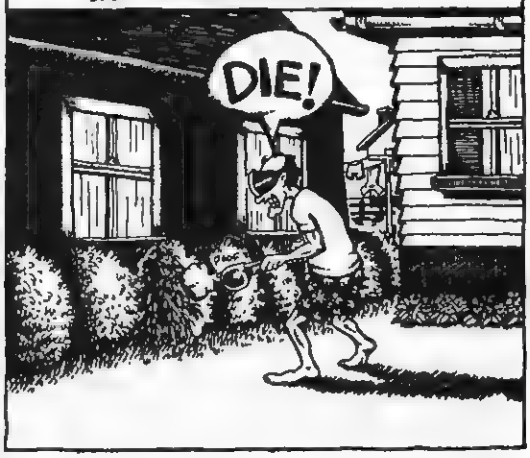
IT WAS FOUND THAT THE COMMERCIAL PREPARATIONS OF 2,4,5-T AND 2,4-D CONTAINED THE CONTAMINATE DIOXIN. ONE OF THE MOST TOXIC SUBSTANCES KNOWN TO MAN

PRACTICALLY INDESTRUCTABLE, DIOXIN CONCENTRATES IN THE WATER TABLE AND THE FOOD CHAIN. FURTHER, THE COMBUSTION OF TIMBER OR OTHER MATERIAL EXPOSED TO IT RELEASES HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF DIOXIN INTO THE AIR. VERSATILE STUFF, EH?

IN ADDITION TO WORKING GENETIC MAGIC, DIOXIN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A HOST OF AILMENTS AMONG THOSE WHO SUFFERED EXPOSURE TO AGENT ORANGE. THAT INCLUDES PRACTICALLY EVERYONE WHO BREATHED THE AIR IN VIETNAM! NEWS LEAKS IN 1969 FORCED THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH TO CONFESS THAT 2,4,5-T WAS A TERATOGEN. HOWEVER, DURING THE TIME THE INFORMATION ON 2,4,5-T WAS SUPPRESSED, MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF AGENT ORANGE WERE DUMPED ON VIETNAM AND THE U.S. AS WELL! AGENT ORANGE WAS BEING USED IN THE STATES IN A VARIETY OF WAYS INCLUDING CLEARING OUT BRUSH IN POWER LINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND ALONG RAILROAD TRACKS. AND TO CLEAR THICKETS FROM GRAZING TERRITORY!

ALSO, DURING THE TIME THE 309TH ACS WAS GOING BANANAS WITH THEIR SPRAY GUNS IN THE 'NAM, THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE WAS USING AGENT ORANGE TO CLEAR WOODY UNDERGROWTH IN AND AROUND NATIONAL FORESTS.

AND, WHAT THE HELL, IF IT CAN KILL A JUNGLE IT CAN SURE KILL THE WEEDS THREATENING YOUR BASIC SUBURBAN LAWN. RIGHT?



WHEN NEWSPAPERS IN THE U.S. BEGAN TO RUN STORIES ON 2,4,5-T'S POSSIBLE CONNECTION TO BIRTH DEFECTS AND OTHER HORRORS, THERE WAS DOUBLETALK...

"THE U.S. SHALL RENOUNCE THE USE OF LETHAL BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND WEAPONS AND ALL OTHER METHODS OF BIOLOGICAL WARFARE."

HOWEVER... THIS "NEW POLICY" DID NOT INCLUDE OR ENCOMPASS THE USE OF HERBICIDES!

WHAT, THEN, DID THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDER BIOLOGICAL WARFARE TO CONSIST OF? WELL, THE "JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF DICTIONARY" ITSELF, IN ITS VIETNAM ERA EDITIONS, CALLS BIOLOGICAL WARFARE...

"THE EMPLOYMENT OF LIVING ORGANISMS, TOXIC BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, AND **PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS** TO PRODUCE DEATH OR CASUALTIES IN MAN, ANIMAL OR PLANT.."

THERE WERE DENIALS..FROM THE PENTAGON; "THE U.S. IS NOT ENGAGED IN BIOLOGICAL WARFARE IN VIETNAM. THE HERBICIDES BEING USED THERE ARE NON-TOXIC AND NOT DANGEROUS TO MAN OR TO ANIMAL LIFE."

IN 1970, DOW CHEMICAL EVEN TRIED TO DENY THE TOXICITY OF 2,4,5-T...

DR. JULIUS JOHNSON (DIRECTOR OF DOW RESEARCH) SAID, "IF WE THOUGHT 2,4,5-T WAS HARMING ANYBODY WE'D TAKE IT OFF THE MARKET TOMORROW."

"TOMORROW", HE SAID, NOT "TODAY!!"

WHATEVER YOU SAY DOCTOR. 2,4,5-T HARMLESS? IF SO, THEN WHY THE WARNINGS ON ESTERON 245 CONCENTRATE, DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY'S #1 SELLING PRODUCT IN THE 2,4,5-T LINE ??

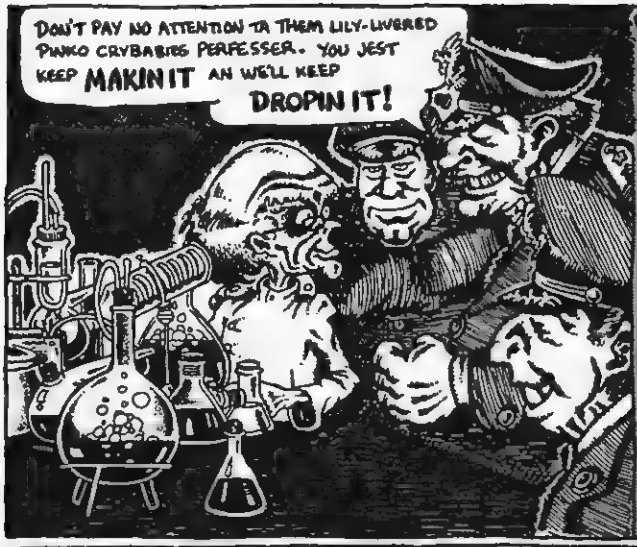
CAUTION: MAY CAUSE SKIN IRRITATION. AVOID CONTACT WITH EYES, SKIN & CLOTHING.

DO NOT CONTAMINATE IRRIGATION DITCHES OR WATER USED FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

•NOTICE•

SELLER MAKES NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND CONCERNING THE USE OF THIS PRODUCT. THE BUYER ASSUMES ALL RISK OF USE OR HANDLING WHETHER IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIRECTIONS **OR NOT!**

HARDLY REASSURING WORDS FOR SOMEONE LULLED BY PRIOR ALLEGATIONS THAT 2,4,5-T IS A SUBSTANCE OF **LOW TOXICITY**, EH WHAT?



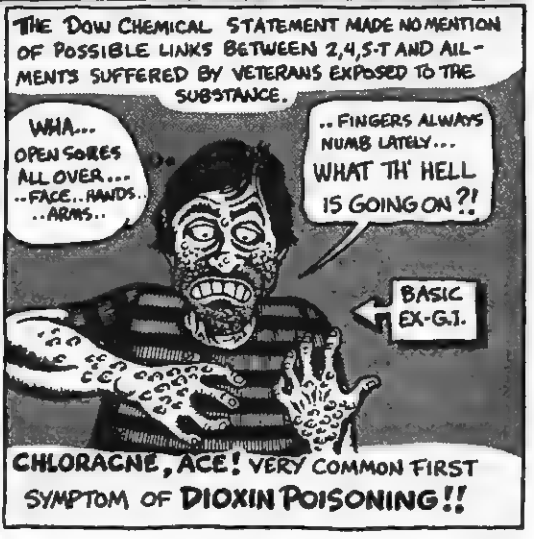
UNTIL 1970 NEITHER OF THE TWO U.S. PRODUCERS OF 2,4,5-T, DOW & MONSANTO, HAD MADE FORMAL TERATOLOGICAL OR CARCINOGENIC TESTS ON THEIR PRODUCT. INDEPENDENT TESTING BY BIONETICS LABORATORIES PROVED THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DIOXIN CONTAMINATED 2,4,5-T BUT THE GOVERNMENT, THE WHITE HOUSE PLAYED DOWN THIS INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC. AND THE DEPARTMENT of DEFENSE, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, IGNORED THE WHOLE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION OF GOING ON DOING WHAT IT HAD BEEN DOING ALL ALONG.

BUSINESS AS USUAL!!

WHEN U.S. INVOLVEMENT WITH VIETNAM ENDED, WHEN WE HAD PICKED UP OUR SPRAY GUNS & GONE HOME, WHAT LITTLE CONTROVERSY THAT HAD EXISTED OVER OUR INSANE USAGE OF DIOXIN CONTAMINATED HERBICIDES THERE COMPLETELY VANISHED. BILLY BOB, SON AND SOLDIER, WAS COMIN' HOME! AMIDST THE MALNUTRITION, THE DISEASE, THE TRAUMA, THE POVERTY, THE CONFUSION AND THE GENERAL SHAMBLES OF THAT WAR RAVAGED COUNTRY THE FATE OF DIOXIN CONTAMINATED VIETNAMESE MOTHERS AND THEIR EQUALLY CONTAMINATED UNBORN CHILDREN WAS TOTALLY FORGOTTEN. TO THIS DAY, NO ONE HAS ANY IDEA HOW MANY VIETNAMESE WERE ADVERSLY AFFECTED BY THE DOWGS OF OPERATION RANCHHAND. ANOTHER TRAGIC FOOTNOTE TO ANOTHER TRAGIC AMERICAN ADVENTURE...

IN 1974, IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO CLOSE THE BOOK ON OUR CHEMICAL HI-JINKS IN 'NAM, DOW CHEMICALS ASSERTED THAT "NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE EXISTS OF ASSOCIATION BETWEEN EXPOSURE TO HERBICIDES AND BIRTH DEFECTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM."

THE DOW CHEMICAL STATEMENT MADE NO MENTION OF POSSIBLE LINKS BETWEEN 2,4,5-T AND AILMENTS SUFFERED BY VETERANS EXPOSED TO THE SUBSTANCE.



CHLORACNE, ACE! VERY COMMON FIRST SYMPTOM OF DIOXIN POISONING!!

UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR, MOST OF WHAT SCIENTISTS WOULD ADMIT THAT THEY KNEW ABOUT DIOXIN POISONING HAD BEEN LEARNED FROM STUDYING THE VICTIMS OF ACCIDENTS AT PLANTS THAT PRODUCED 2,4,5-T & 2,4-D. OUTBREAKS OF CHLORACNE HAD OCCURED AMONG CHEMICAL WORKERS SEVERAL TIMES...

AT A DOW PLANT IN MICHIGAN, IN NEW JERSEY & IN THE NOTORIOUS 1976 SEVASCO, ITALY INCIDENT IN WHICH BOTH PLANT WORKERS AND MANY OF THE TOWNSFOLK WERE THOROUGHLY DOUSED WITH POISON.

BUT THESE INCIDENTS WERE ISOLATED AND, SADLY, YOU MIGHT EVEN EXPECT OCCASIONAL ACCIDENTS AT A MANUFACTURING PLANT... NO ONE KNEW WHAT THE LARGE SCALE EFFECTS OF THE DIOXIN POISONING WERE UNTIL THE TROOPS CAME MARCHING HOME.

AND THESE GUYS, BY AND LARGE, HAD NO IDEA THAT THEY WERE CONTAMINATED. OBVIOUSLY. EVERYONE HAD TOLD THEM THAT AGENT ORANGE WAS SAFE.. UNLESS YOU WERE A TREE THAT IS.

WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT WAS CAUSING THEIR ILLNESSES, A LARGE NUMBER OF VETS BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF DIOXIN POISONING. THESE SYMPTOMS INCLUDED LOSS OF WEIGHT & APPETITE, SLEEPLESSNESS, DEPRESSION, THE ENTIRE GAMUT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS.

THEIR MATES SUFFERED SPONTANEOUS MISCARRIAGES, THEIR CHILDREN WERE BORN WITH BIRTH DEFECTS (DIOXIN MAKES THALIDOMIDE LOOK LIKE PABLUM). ANOTHER NIFTY SIDE EFFECT WAS GREATLY REDUCED OR COMPLETELY FAILED SEX DRIVE!

THE LIST GOES ON... VITAL ORGAN DISORDERS.

BECAUSE DIOXIN ACCUMULATES IN BODY FAT IT CAN SEEP INTO THE SYSTEM GRADUALLY AS THE FAT BREAKS DOWN. 10 YEARS AFTER EXPOSURE YOU GOT GUYS COMING UP WITH SOME NICE

ACUTE LIVER DAMAGE

EVERY DAY FER TH' REST OF MY LIFE!

BETTER'N PUSHIN' DAISIES I GUESS

A FEW CHOSEN SOULS EVEN GOT - YOU GUESSED IT

CANCER

MMMM YES...YES...THERES A MASS THERE.... I WAS AFRAID OF TH...I MEAN, I MEAN.. WELL, MAYBE ITS BENIGN!

HERE YA GOT GUYS 28 TO 34 WHO SHOULD BE HEALTHY, IN THE PRIME OF THEIR LIVES - LIVERS WASTED AWAY, LIMBS PARALYZED, STOMACHS ROTTEN WITH CANCER...

I GOT THE HAWAIIAN MAN

RIGHTEOUS BRO

AND NOBODY IS HELPING THESE PEOPLE!

THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION REFUSES TO REVIEW CLAIMS. THE VA DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ANY RATING CRITERIA FOR CHEMICAL DISABILITIES.

VA

THERES NO SUCH THING AS DIOXIN POISONING! THIS CREATURE IS OBVIOUSLY HYSTERICAL

AND WHOSE GONNA HELP THOSE FAMILIES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST - TIMBER COUNTRY - THERE HAVE BEEN AN INORDINATE NUMBER OF MISCARRIAGES IN CERTAIN AREAS THERE IN RECENT YEARS.

YUP! THEY BEEN DROPIN' LAK FLIES ROUND HEAH!

WELCOME ALSEA ORE. POPULATION - HOLDING

A GROUP OF 8 WOMEN IN ALSEA, OREGON WHO SUFFERED MISCARRIAGES THEY BELIEVE WERE CAUSED BY 2,4,5-T RECENTLY GOT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO ISSUE A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER BANNING THE SPRAYING THERE, BUT THE BAN WON'T HOLD UP FOR LONG..

THE TIMBER INDUSTRY HAS BEAT THIS RAP ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS

AND A FEDERAL CLASS ACTION SUIT HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST ALL THE MANUFACTURERS OF 2,4,5-T ON BEHALF OF U.S. SERVICEMEN EXPOSED TO THE CHEMICAL IN 'NAM. THIS SUIT COULD ULTIMATELY AFFECT ABOUT 4 MILLION MEN WHO SERVED IN 'NAM, BUT THESE THINGS USUALLY TAKE YEARS...

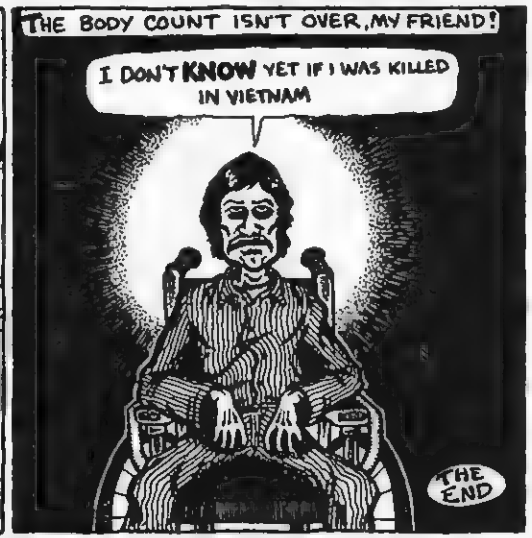
MEANWHILE, MANUFACTURE OF 2,4,5-T AND 2,4-D CONTINUES AND WHERE YOU HAVE THOSE CHEMICALS YOU HAVE DIOXIN. DOMESTIC SPRAYING CONTINUES & PEOPLE CONTINUE TO BE EXPOSED, TO BECOME ILL. AND DON'T THINK YOU'RE SAFE JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIVE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOREST. SCIENTISTS ARE FINDING DIOXIN CONTAMINATION IN PRODUCTS OTHER THAN HERBICIDES. A VARIETY OF COMMON COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN FOUND TO CONTAIN HARMFUL LEVELS OF DIOXIN, A FEW OF WHICH ARE..

.. CERTAIN BRANDS OF

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT, THE LEGACY OF OPERATION RANCH HAND. A CONTINUING STORY OF TRAGEDY, OF PAIN & SUFFERING, OF DISEASE & DEATH COMPLETE WITH THE ALL TOO FAMILIAR CAST OF LYING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, CORPORATE CLOWNS, A DEMENTED WAR MACHINE, BLIND & STUPID POLITICIANS, IDIOTS ON EVERY OFFICIAL LEVEL

WHERE WILL IT ALL END? THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS. UNLESS 2,4,5-T AND 2,4-D ARE BANNED ALTOGETHER THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE THIS STORY CAN END... OUR COMMON GRAVE.

THE BODY COUNT ISN'T OVER, MY FRIEND!



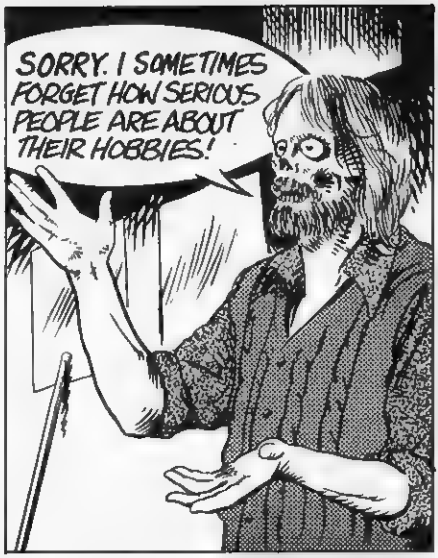
THANKS TO THE FOLKS AT "ENLISTED TIMES", 2180 BRYANT ST. S.F. FOR THE RESEARCH MATERIAL. THANKS TO BEBE & TO MARY ALADJ AT WETA-TV. IN WASHINGTON D.C. SPECIAL THANKS TO RON TURNER.

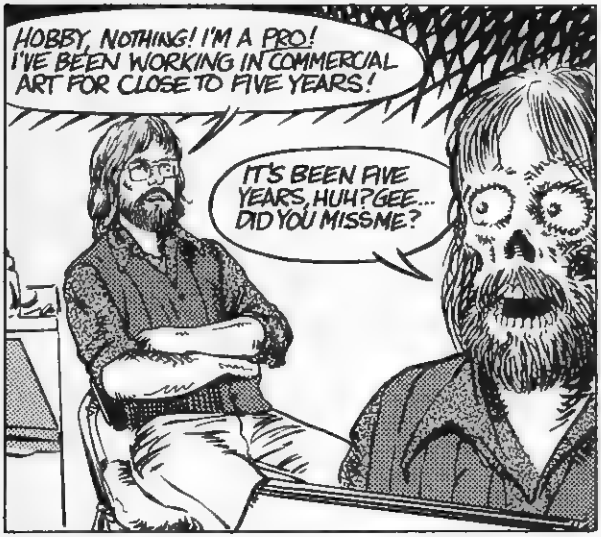
WERE YOU SURPRISED WHEN YOUR NEIGHBOR'S SMALL CAR ROASTED HIM AFTER IT WAS HIT FROM BEHIND? BEEN THINKING ABOUT FLYING TO CHICAGO ON A DC-10? HOW ABOUT A GOOD BUY ON A NICE HOUSE NEAR THE POWER PLANT IN HARRISBURG, PA.? PERFECTLY SAFE; ALL OF 'EM! OR SO THEY SAID. THE NEXT TIME YOU HEAR THEM USE THOSE WORDS CLIMB INTO A RADIATION PROOF, FIRE RESISTANT SUIT, STRAP ON A PARACHUTE AND PRAY TO GOD YOU LIVE THROUGH BEING...

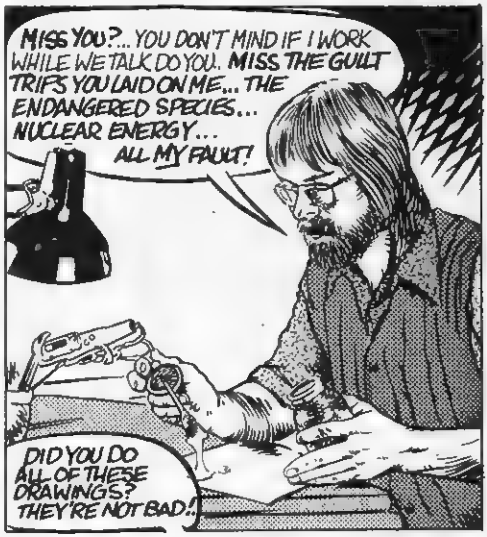
PERFECTLY SAFE!

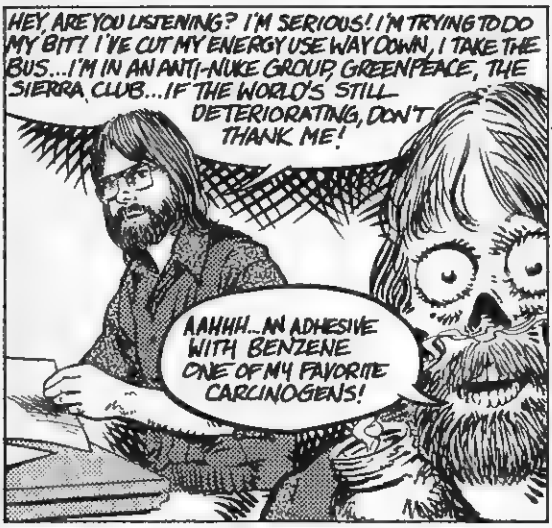
TM BOND '79

DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN! I COULDA RUINED THIS DRAWING!!!

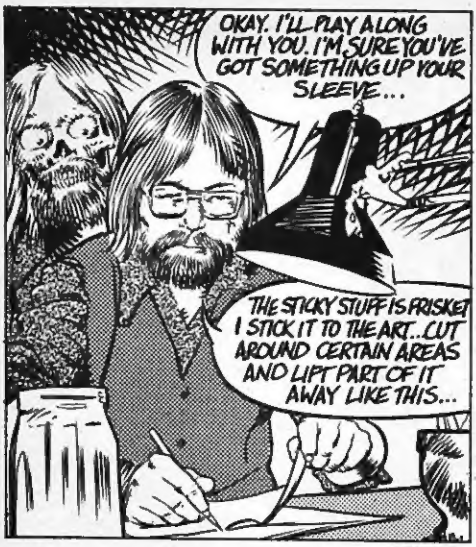

SORRY. I SOMETIMES FORGET HOW SERIOUS PEOPLE ARE ABOUT THEIR HOBBIES!


HOBBY, NOTHING! I'M A PRO! I'VE BEEN WORKING IN COMMERCIAL ART FOR CLOSE TO FIVE YEARS!
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS, HUH? GEE... DID YOU MISS ME?

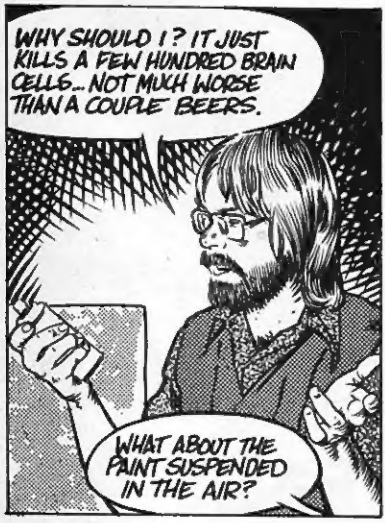

MISS YOU?... YOU DON'T MIND IF I WORK WHILE WE TALK DO YOU. MISS THE GUILT TRIPS YOU LAID ON ME... THE ENDANGERED SPECIES... NUCLEAR ENERGY... ALL MY FAULT!
DID YOU DO ALL OF THESE DRAWINGS? THEY'RE NOT BAD!


HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING? I'M SERIOUS! I'M TRYING TO DO MY BIT! I'VE CUT MY ENERGY USE WAY DOWN, I TAKE THE BUS... I'M IN AN ANTI-NUKE GROUP, GREENPEACE, THE SIERRA CLUB... IF THE WORLD'S STILL DETERIORATING, DON'T THANK ME!
AAHHH... AN ADHESIVE WITH BENZENE ONE OF MY FAVORITE CARCINOGENS!

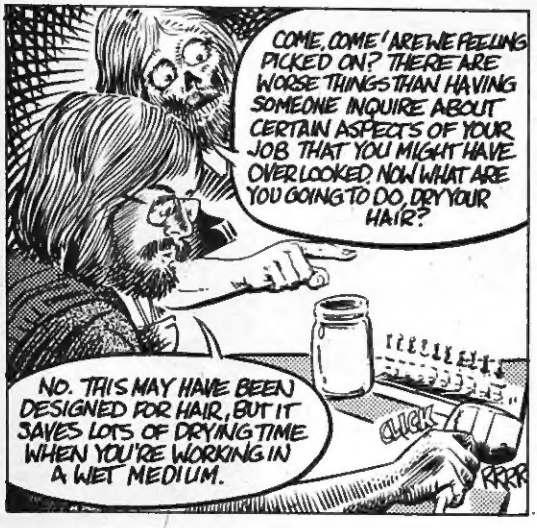
SO WHAT IS IT... WHAT DID YOU COME TO HARASS ME ABOUT THIS TIME?
NOTHING! YOU'VE GOT ME ALL WRONG! I DON'T ALWAYS COME TO HARASS PEOPLE! NOW CALM DOWN AND TELL ME WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU LAY THAT STICKY PAPER ON TOP OF YOUR DRAWING...

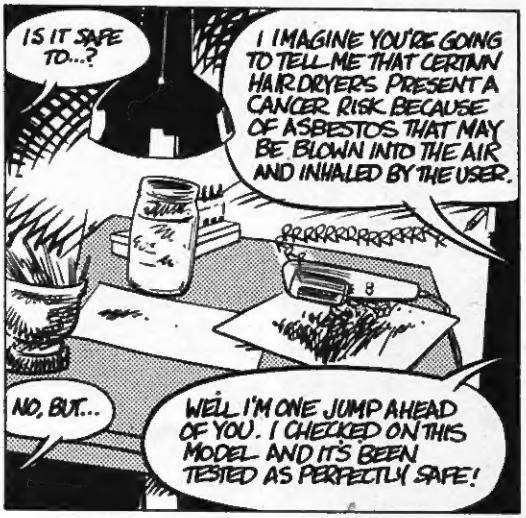

OKAY. I'LL PLAY ALONG WITH YOU. I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING UP YOUR SLEEVE...
THE STICKY STUFF IS FRISKET I STICK IT TO THE ART...CUT AROUND CERTAIN AREAS AND LIFT PART OF IT AWAY LIKE THIS...

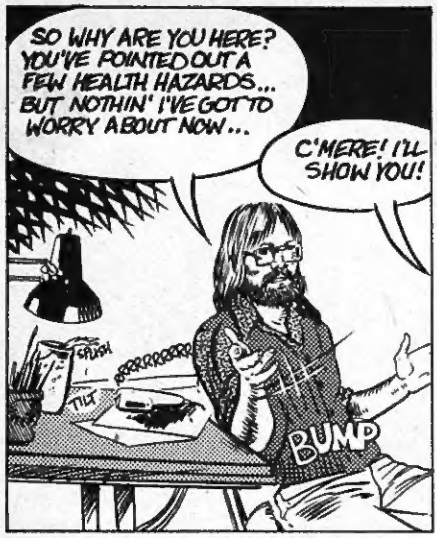
THEN I TAKE IT OVER HERE TO THIS SMALL SPRAY AREA I'VE GOT AND SPRAY IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE DRAWING.
NIIICE SMELL! THERE MUST BE SOME POTENT SOLVENTS IN THAT STUFF. DOESN'T IT WORRY YOU?


WHY SHOULD I? IT JUST KILLS A FEW HUNDRED BRAIN CELLS... NOT MUCH WORSE THAN A COUPLE BEERS.
WHAT ABOUT THE PAINT SUSPENDED IN THE AIR?

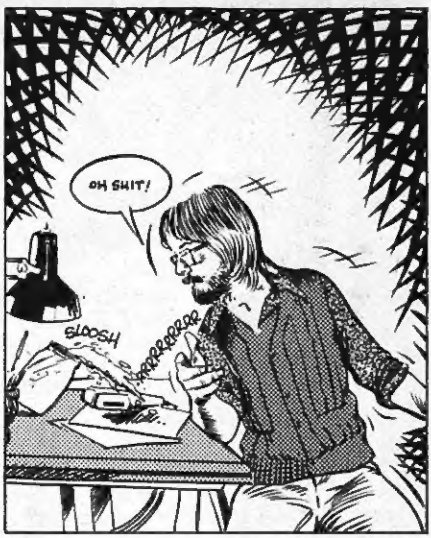
AW, IT DRIES BEFORE IT LANDS. I VACUUM IN HERE ONCE IN A WHILE.
WHAT'RE ALL THESE PRETTY COLORS?
THEY'RE WATERCOLORS. NOW TRY AND TELL ME THEY'RE LETHAL!


COME, COME! ARE WE FEELING PICKED ON? THERE ARE WORSE THINGS THAN HAVING SOMEONE INQUIRE ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF YOUR JOB THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE OVERLOOKED. NOW WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, DRY YOUR HAIR?
NO. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED FOR HAIR, BUT IT SAVES LOTS OF DRYING TIME WHEN YOU'RE WORKING IN A WET MEDIUM.
CLICK


IS IT SAFE TO...?
I IMAGINE YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME THAT CERTAIN HAIR DRYERS PRESENT A CANCER RISK BECAUSE OF ASBESTOS THAT MAY BE BLOWN INTO THE AIR AND INHALED BY THE USER.
NO, BUT...
WELL I'M ONE JUMP AHEAD OF YOU. I CHECKED ON THIS MODEL AND IT'S BEEN TESTED AS PERFECTLY SAFE!


SO WHY ARE YOU HERE? YOU'VE POINTED OUT A FEW HEALTH HAZARDS... BUT NOTHIN' I'VE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT NOW...
C'MERE! I'LL SHOW YOU!
CRUSH
TILT
BUMP

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SHOW ME?
SINCE YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO SHOW ME HOW YOU WORK...I THOUGHT I'D RETURN THE FAVOR!


OH SHIT!
SLOOSH

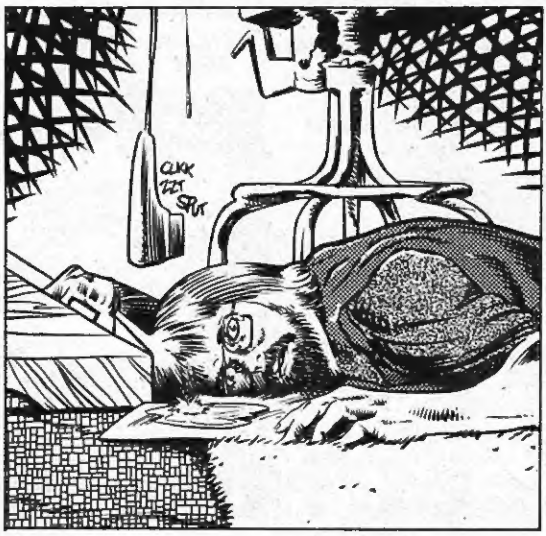
OH NO!
TRY TO BE OBJECTIVE. THIS IS A RARE TREAT BELIEVE ME! DO YOU THINK I TAKE THIS KIND OF TIME...

RRRZZZT CRACK
SPLASH!

WITH THE THOUSANDS THAT STARVE TO DEATH ON YOUR PLANET EVERY DAY? NO GIREE BOB! ALL THE SAME...

CRACKLE
ZZZT

...IT IS KIND OF A SHAME... SUCH A VALIANT EFFORT...


CLICK
TEE
SPUT

AND THE DRAWING GOT RUINED ANYWAY!
THE END

OUR PEACEFUL INCURSION TO YOUR PLANET WAS JUST IN TIME. IN ADDITION TO POLITICAL STABILITY, WE WILL BRING YOU THE CULTURE THAT YOUR WORLD SO SEVERLY LACKS ON MARS THE FNNYMGZN OR "COMIC BOOK" AS YOU CALL IT IS THE HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FINE ARTS, NOT AN AMUSEMENT FOR CHILDREN AND THE DULL-WITTED. INDEED, YOUR FNNYMGZNS ARE NOT ONLY POOR IN QUALITY, BUT POLITICALLY INCORRECT TO AN ALARMING DEGREE. I MUST STRONGLY URGE YOU TO WILLINGLY RE-EDUCATE YOURSELF WITH THESE WORTHWHILE FNNYMGZNS!
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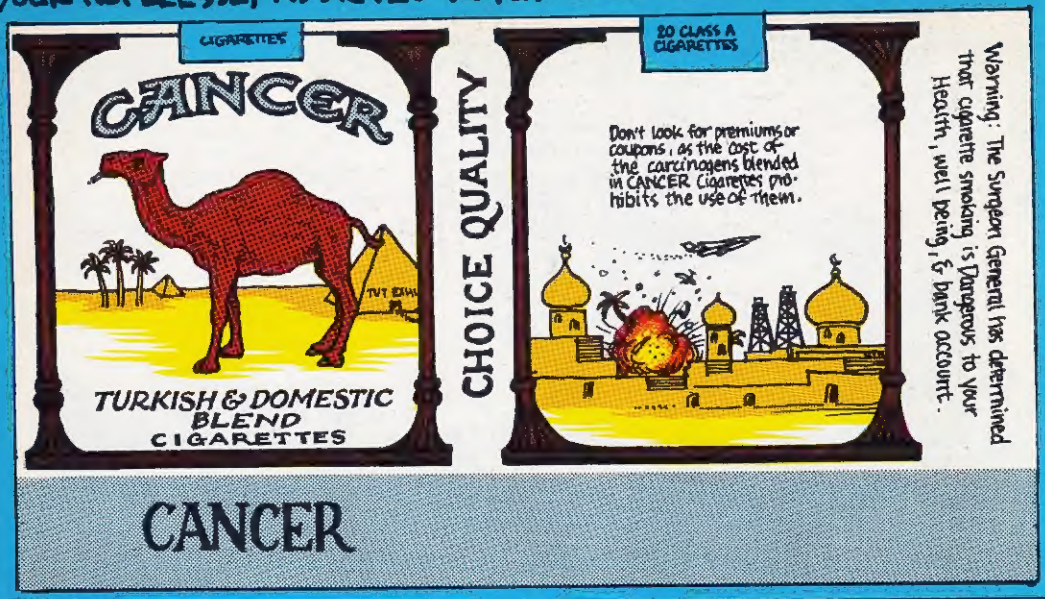
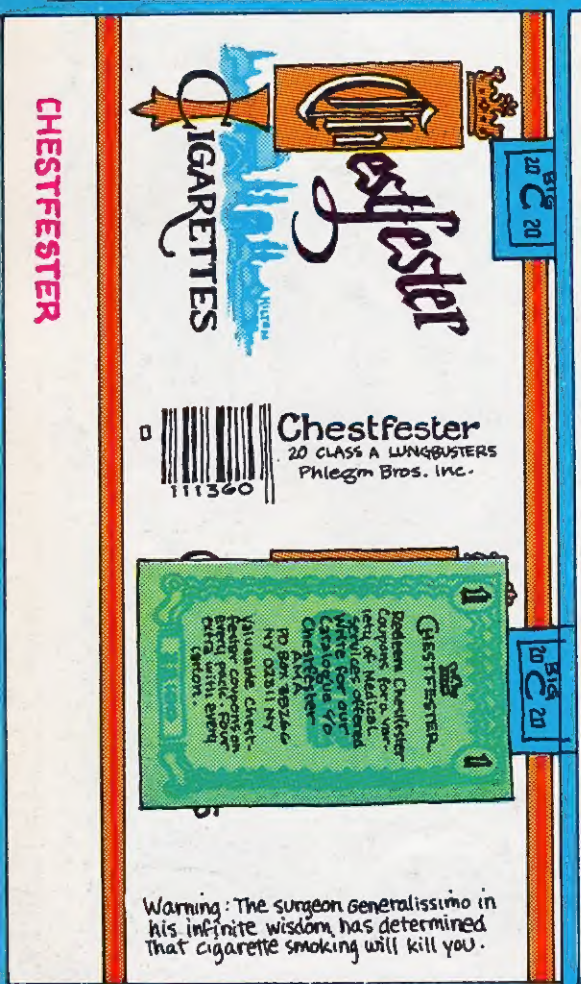
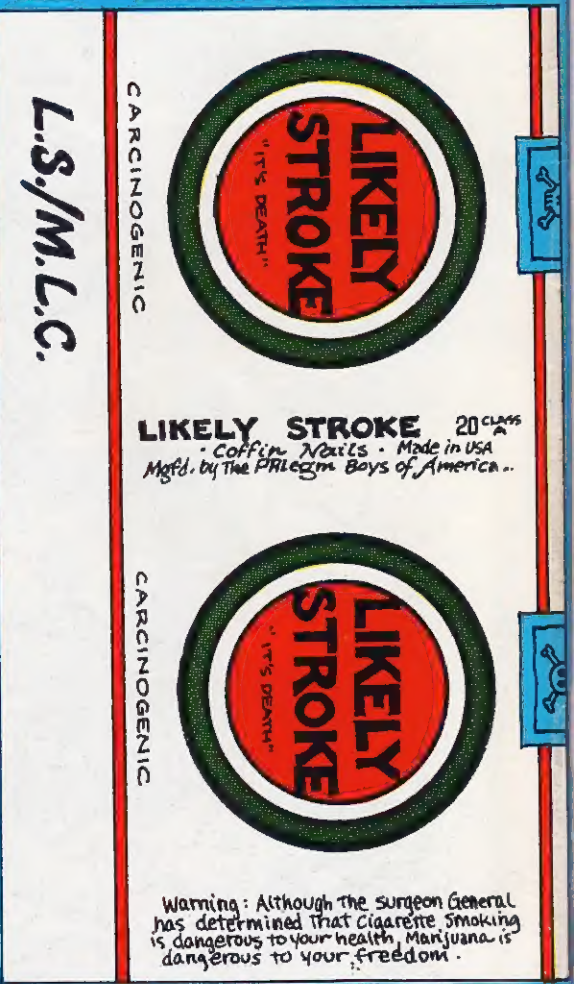
FUN AND GAMES DEPT. HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BUM OUT YOUR HOPELESSLY ADDICTED LOVED ONES. SOME FUN, HUH?







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